SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

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HC
Houbunsha
Comics

信長のシェフ 3

A CHEF OF NOBUNAGA
STORY BY MITSURU NISHIMURA
COMIC BY TAKURO KAJIKAWA

原作 西村ミツル
漫画 梶川卓郎

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Ken is called for duty as a chef for the army preparing to attack Echizen's Lord Asakura. But what awaits them is treachery by Nobunaga's brother, Azai Nagamasa! How will Ken escape from the desperate Retreat of Kanegasaki?! And Ken's recipes are going to be published?!

美味しいコミック、召し上がれ！
HOUBUNSHA COMICS

世界中の美味しいグルメのことにある、本邦初のグルメ迷宮
山口よしのぶ 原作 花形 怜

老舗茶屋の跡取り娘そよという美色の御曹バイヤーが大活躍
ひらまつおさむ 原作 花形 怜

引上せず、駆し駆け知られた日本茶の魅力をぎゅっと凝縮
青木幸子

つぼが無くて酒はなし。戦国アイデアンビビー荒やらい
ラズウェル橙木

必ず退屈の一部を改訳した洪前「蔵の娘」の女将・青が冒険
田名網健 原作 西ゆうじ

おもてなしの心を受け継ぐ、酒の銘・雪子がホテルケーマンに！
田名網健 原作 西ゆうじ

全国作家の初シェフ連作。風変わりな人々のふしぎな食事！
河内遥

パリフェのスペシャリスト、パリスタ、苦き御味職人の成長詩
むろなが伊末 原作 花形 怜

[Cover illustration]

万文社

信長のシェフ

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3

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Food from the Warring States Period		

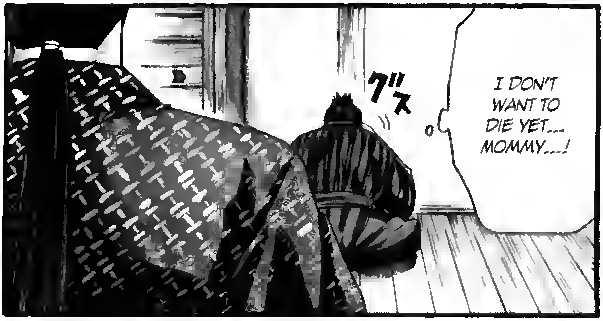
*This story is a work of fiction and does not always accurately reflect history.

SFX. Tssssss

SFX. Tssssss

SFX. Plop

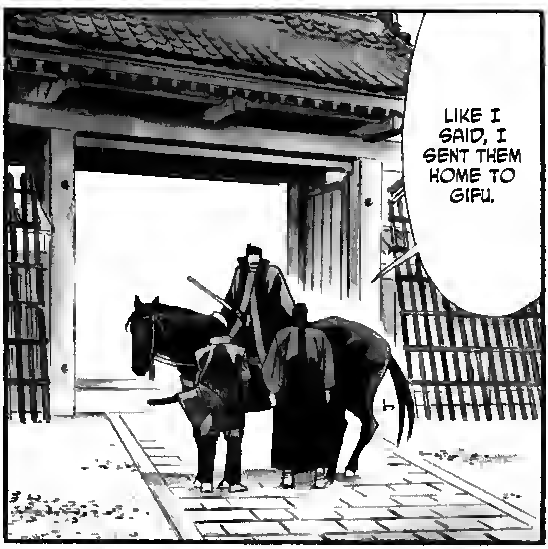
SFX. Sob



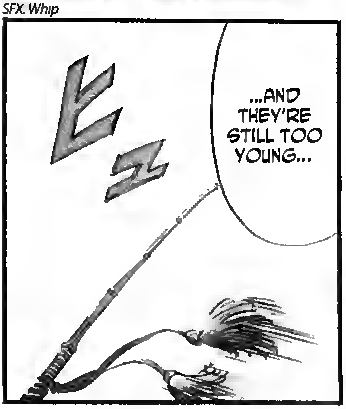
Chapter 17 To the Destined Land

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

I'LL GO SUPPORT THE BATTLES ALONE.

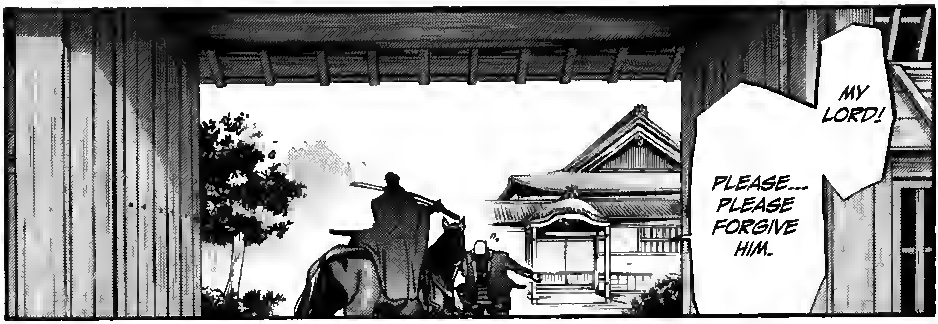

LIKE I SAID, I SENT THEM HOME TO GIFU.

SFX: Whip

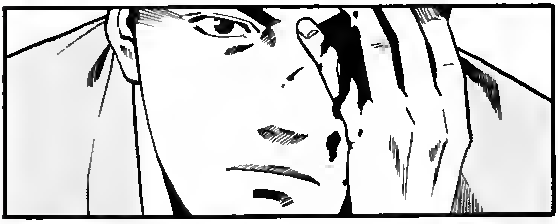

ヒュ
...AND THEY'RE STILL TOO YOUNG...

KEN!
OUR REASON FOR BRINGING THEM HERE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAR..

SFX: Slash
ENOUGH PRETTY TALK...
I HAVE NO NEED FOR YOUR INSOLENT LIFE!

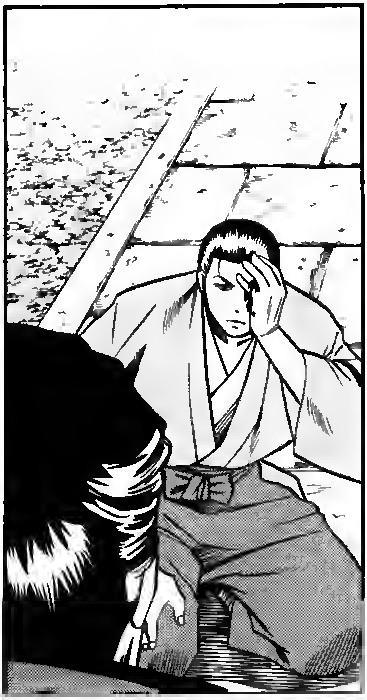

MY LORD!
PLEASE... PLEASE FORGIVE HIM.

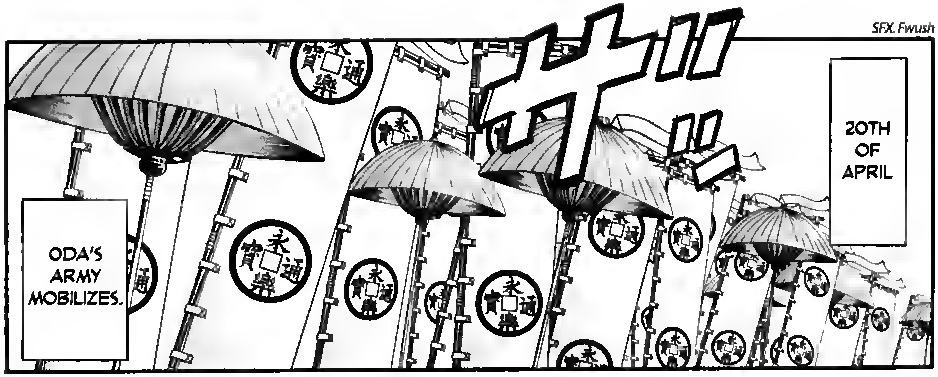
PLEASE RECONSIDER, I BEG YOU!
I COMPLETELY AGREE THAT KEN'S ACTIONS WERE OUT OF LINE THIS TIME...
STILL, KEN'S COOKING SKILLS ARE AN INVALUABLE TREASURE!

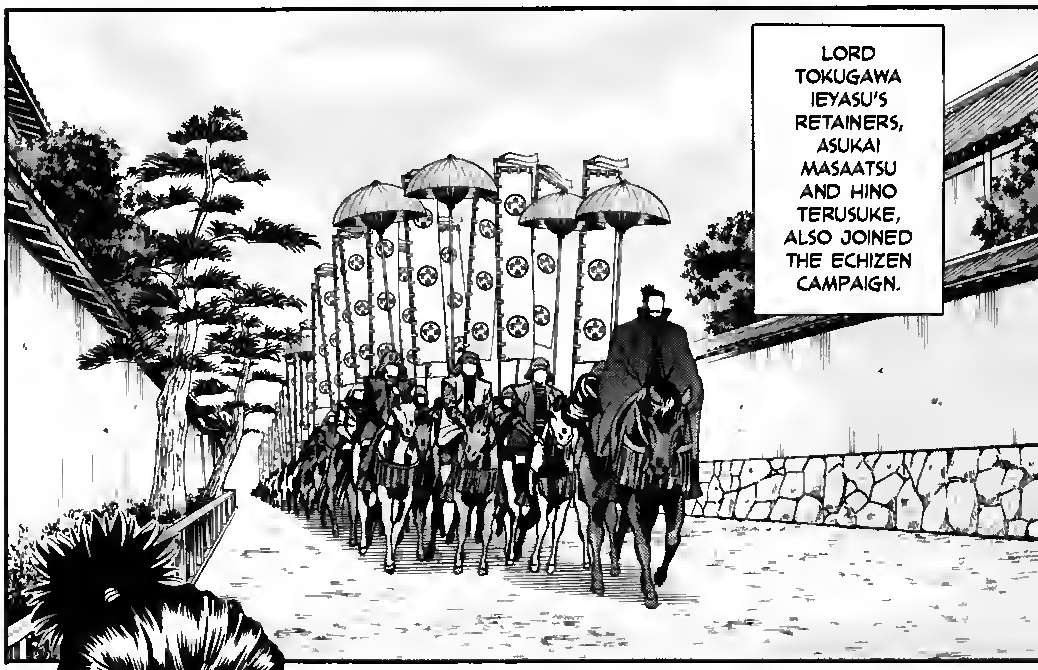


SFX Chack

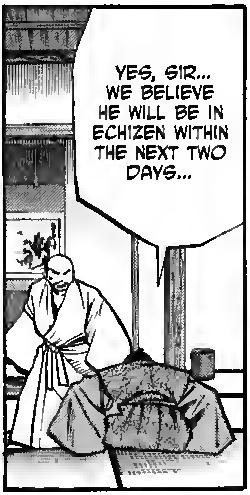
IN THIS WORLD, EVEN THOSE WHO EXPOUSE THE WAY OF BUDDHISM SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE UP ARMS AND KILL.
YOU ARE A JOKE.
キン

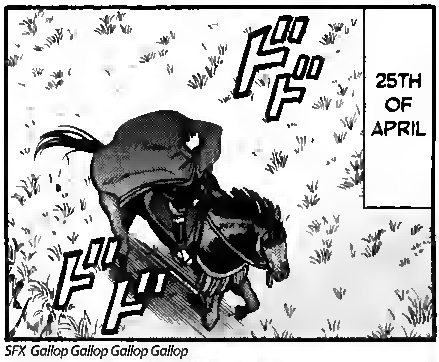




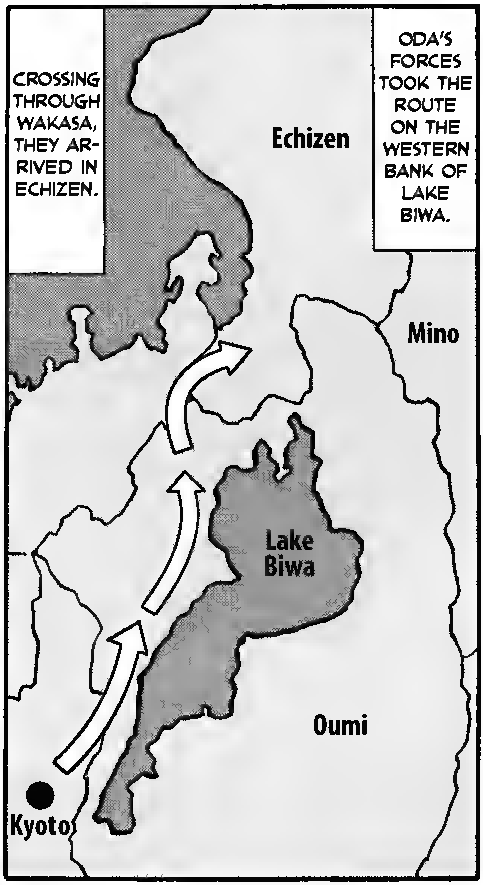


T/N Oda Nobunaga was known to have used this banner with the image of a coin minted under the Chinese Ming Dynasty emperor, Yongle. These coins were becoming widespread in Japan because of trade, and the story goes that Oda's family was quick to take advantage of their spread



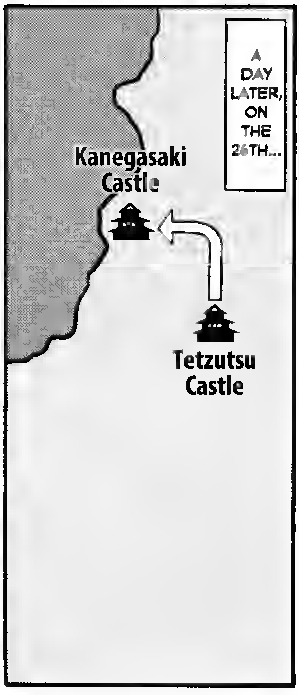


SFX Gallop Gallop Gallop Gallop

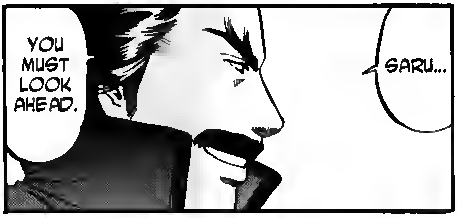


THE CASTLE OF MOUNT TEZUTSU CAPITU-LATED.

...KANE-GASAKI CASTLE CAPITU-LATED.


A DAY LATER, ON THE 26TH...
Kanegasaki Castle
Tetzutsu Castle

ALL THAT IS LEFT TO DO IS CROSS THE KINOME PASS, AND WE SHALL ARRIVE AT ASAKURA'S MAIN CITADEL OF ICHIJOUDANI.
IT HAS NOT *EVEN* BEEN TEN DAYS YET.


SARU...
YOU MUST LOOK AHEAD.

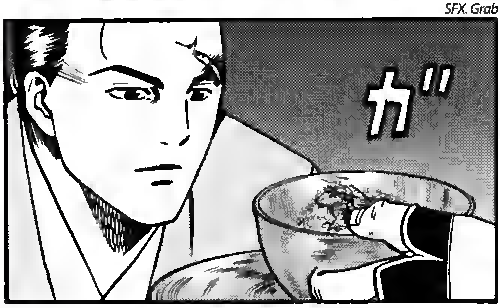
AS EXPECTED OF YOUR LORDSHIP!

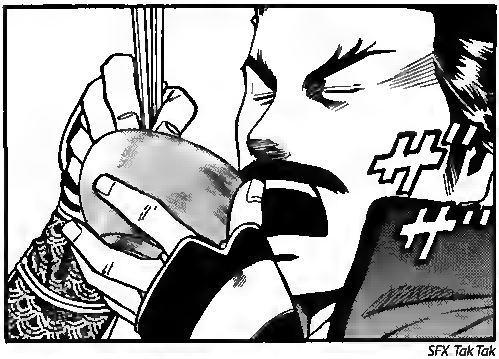
MUCH, MUCH FARTHER THAN MERELY ASAKURA.
THAT IS WHERE I INTEND TO GO...!

HO, SO THIS IS THE INSTANT YUZUKE.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL COLOR.
CHERRY BLOSS-OMS?

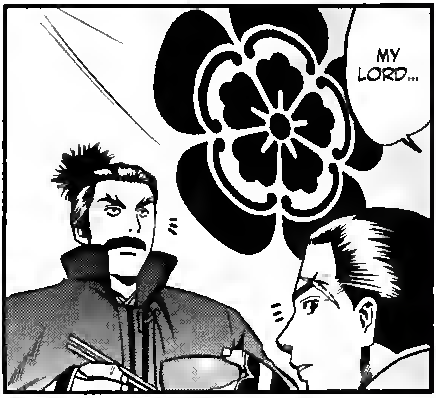
WELL DONE, WELL DONE.
THE VINEGAR WILL HELP YOU RECOVER FROM EXHAUSTION.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS YUZUKE MADE WITH CHERRY PETAL VINEGAR.

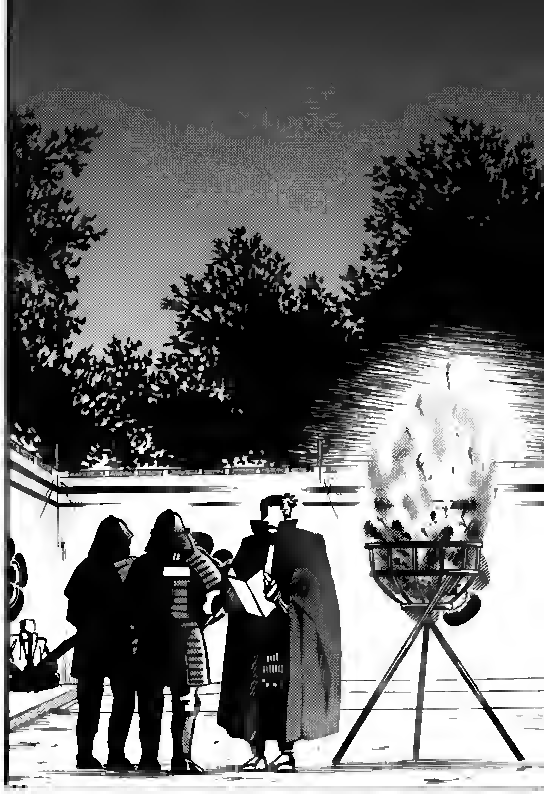
SFX. Grab

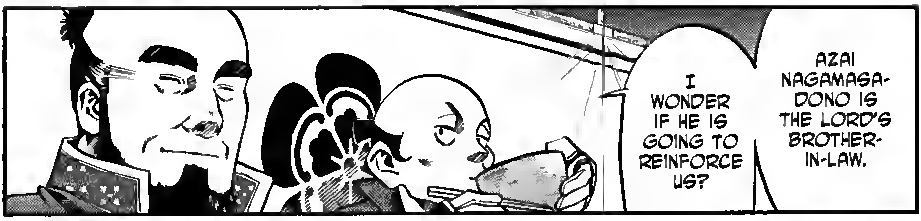


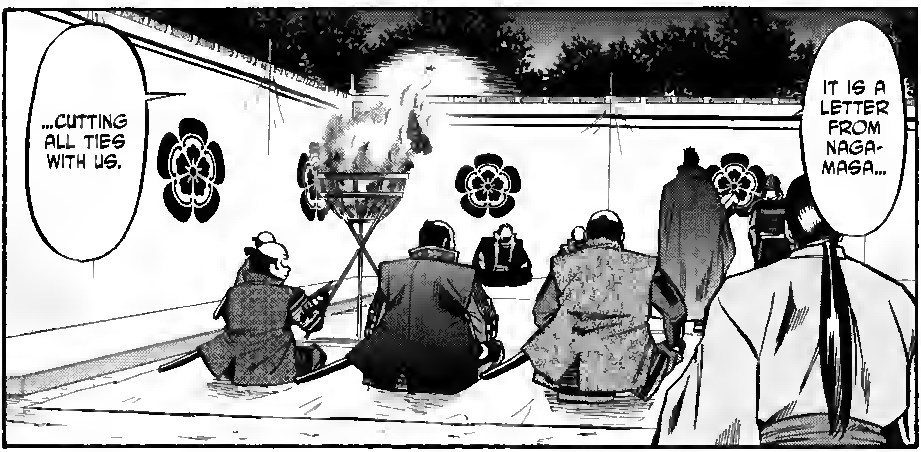


SFX. Tak Tak





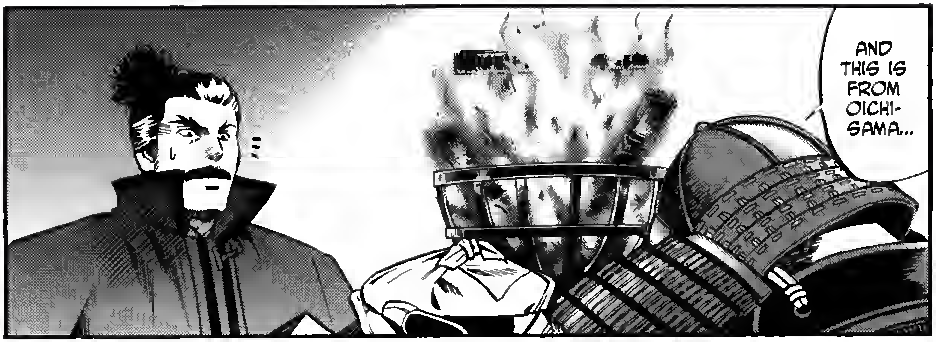

AZAI NAGAMASA-DONO IS THE LORD'S BROTHER-IN-LAW.
I WONDER IF HE IS GOING TO REINFORCE US?

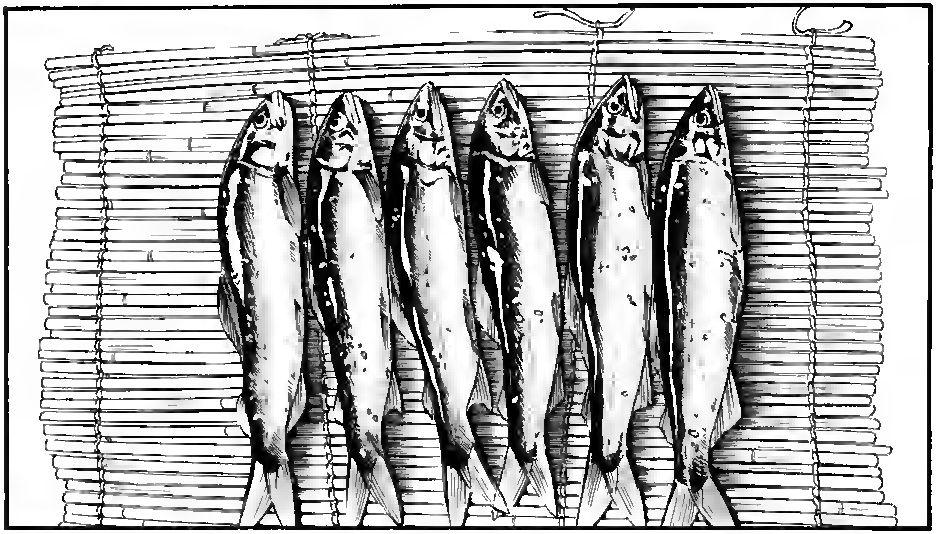

IT IS A LETTER FROM NAGA-MASA...
...CUTTING ALL TIES WITH US.

NAGAMASA-DONO IS SWITCHING ALLEGI-ANCE...?
HE CANNOT...
SFX: Clatter
カラ
コロ
NAGAMASA-DONO IS A MAN WHO CALLED OFF HIS BETROTHAL TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE ROKKAKU LORD IN PREFERENCE OF MARRYING YOUR LORDSHIP'S YOUNGER SISTER, OICHI.
HE HAS BEEN AN ALLY WE COULD BE SURE TO TRUST EVER SINCE HE UNIFIED MINO WITH US...!
THE AZAI AND THE ASAKURA FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ON INTIMATE TERMS FOR MANY GENE-RATIONS.
HE MIGHT BE PRIORITIZING THOSE OLDER FAMILY LOYALTIES.
NO, WE CANNOT BE SO SURE.

WE ARE SURROUNDED BY ENEMY LANDS...
WE SHALL BE ATTACKED FROM ALL SIDES...
Lord Asakura's Castle, Ichijoudani
Kinome Pass
Kanegasaki Castle
Lord Azai's Castle, Odani
Lake Biwa
MY LORD...
MY LORD...
IT IS NOT NAGAMASA...
DO YOU NOT AGREE THAT IT IS MORE LIKELY TO BE A TRICK DEVISED BY THE ASAKURA?

PLEASE ACCEPT ONE MORE ITEM...
THIS IS A LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM YOU LAST YEAR, LORD ODA.
THIS IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING I SENT NAGAMASA...
SFX Drip..


AND THIS IS FROM OICHI-SAMA...



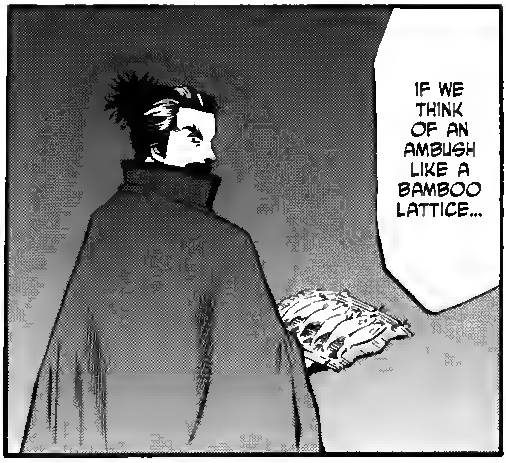
WHAT...? WHY WOULD SHE SEND THAT...?

SWEET-FISH...?

BAMBOO LATTICE!

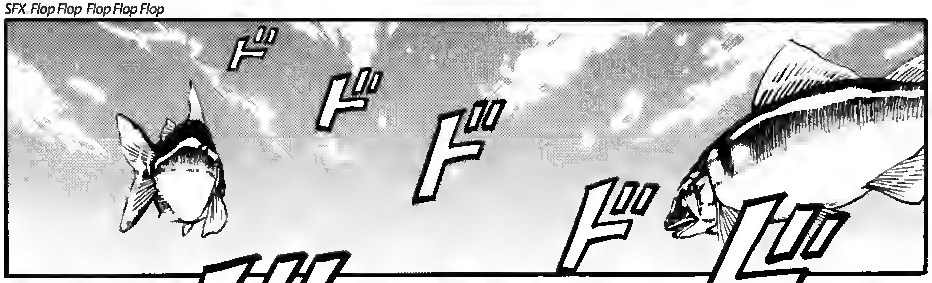
BAMBOO WHAT...?
BAMBOO LATTICES ARE ANCHORED TO LARGE BOULDERS OR TREES ON EACH SIDE OF A RIVER...
...AND ARE MADE TO CATCH FISH THAT JUMP OUT OF THE WATER.

...THEN THAT MEANS THEY'RE PROBA-BLY...


IF WE THINK OF AN AMBUSH LIKE A BAMBOO LATTICE...

SFX Glup Glop

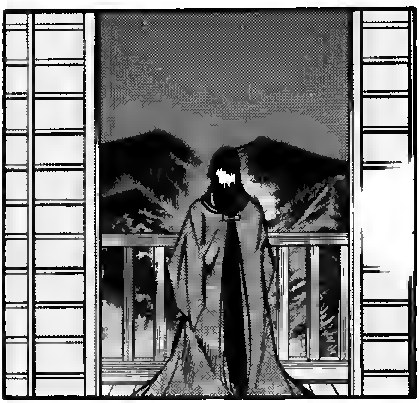
SFX Flop Flop Flop Flop Flop


ドドド

SFX: Roooaaaar
REAR ATACK BY AZAI NAGA-MASA'S ARMY.

SFX Thud Thud Thud Thud

SFX Roaar

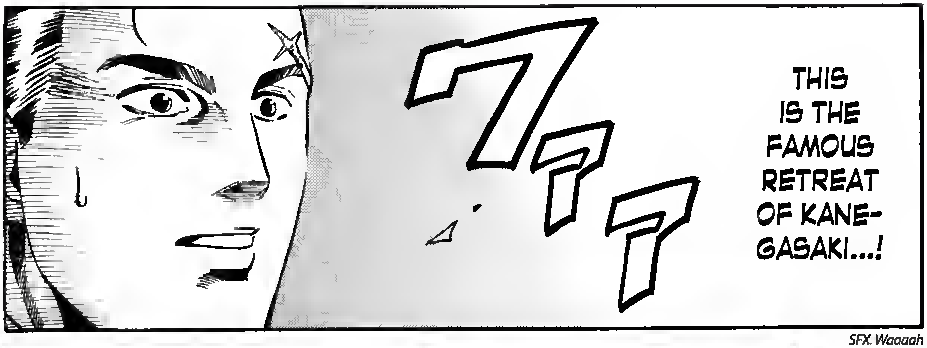


SFX: dop
RE-TREAT!!!
SFX: Waaaah
HA HA HA!
NAGA-MASA, YOU BAS-TARD, YOU HAVE REALLY DONE IT NOW!
THIS IS YOUR ONE BIG SHOT AT MAKING YOUR NAME RESOUND THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD...
YOU HAVE NOW BECOME A REAL MAN!
BRING THE LORD HIS STEED...
QUICKLY!
FEED THE WATCH FIRE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!
DO NOT LET THEM REALIZE WE ARE RETREAT-ING!

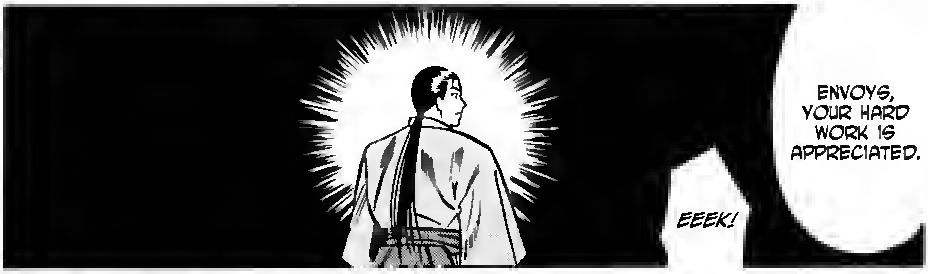
SFX Waaaah
ワアア

IS THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF THE RETREAT OF KANE GASAKI ...!
THIS BATTLE...

Chapter 18



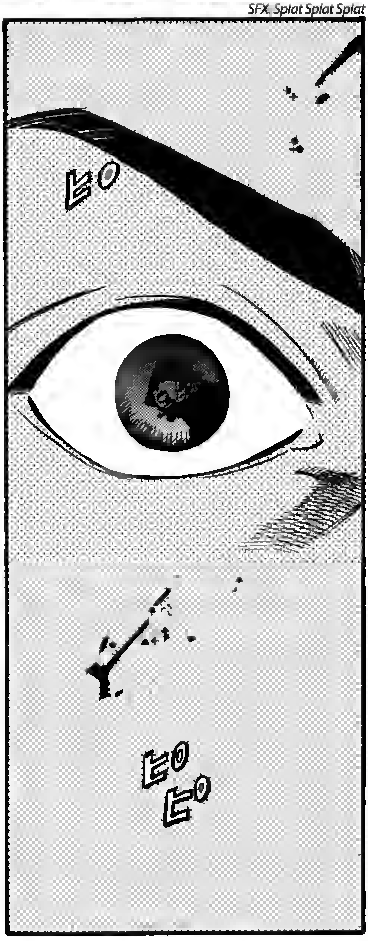
SFX. Waaaah

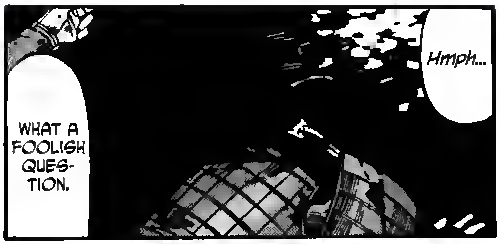


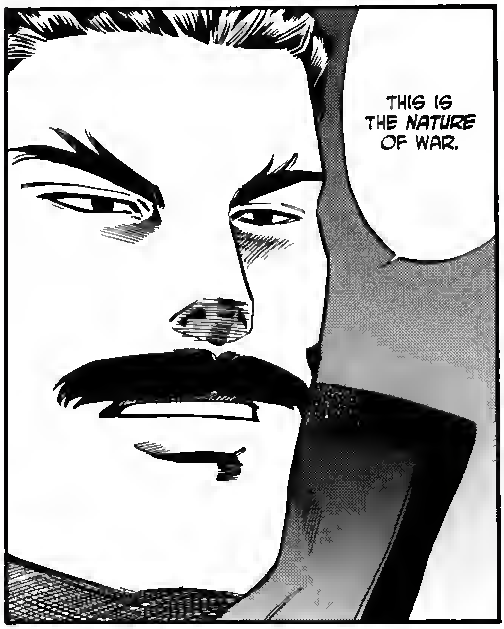
Chapter 18 The Defeated General

SFX: Splat Splat Splat

SFX: Presence




Hmph...
WHAT A FOOLISH QUES-TION.


THIS IS THE *NATURE* OF WAR.

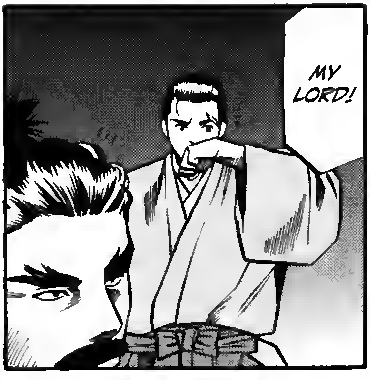
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO KILL THEM?!

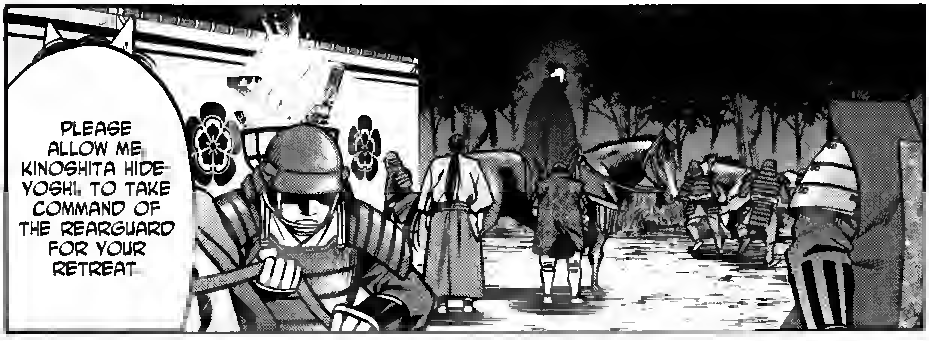
DO YOU *REALLY* THINK PEOPLE'S LIVES...
...ARE SO WORTHLESS A THING...?!
DO YOU REALLY...

YOU ARE NAIVE...
...LIKE A YOUNG CHILD.

SFX: Shik

I HAVE PREPARED YOU A HORSE...
PLEASE MOUNT!


MY LORD!


PLEASE ALLOW ME, KINOSHITA HIDEYOSHI, TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE REARGUARD FOR YOUR RETREAT.

I SHALL COMPLETE THIS TASK...
...EVEN IF IT MEANS LOSING MY LIFE!
I WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
ALLOW ME TO ALSO BE PART OF THE REAR.
MY LORD, ME TOO!

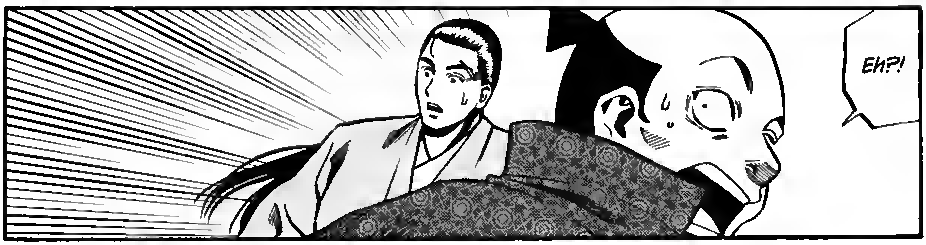
FOR WHAT REASON?
YOU ARE HOPING TO PAY ME BACK FOR SO LONG AGO?
HOW PALTRY.
THAT WILL NOT DO.
?!
...
I HAVE A MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TASK FOR YOU TO ACCOMPLISH.
GO TO THE CAPITAL WITH IEYASU-DONO AND HELP PROTECT HIS COMPANY! NOW, GO!
YES, SIR!

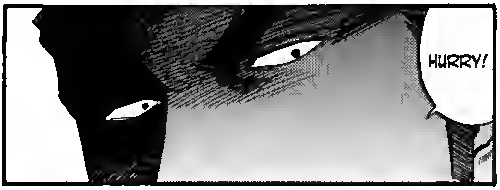
SFX. Gallop Gallop Gallop Gallop Gallop

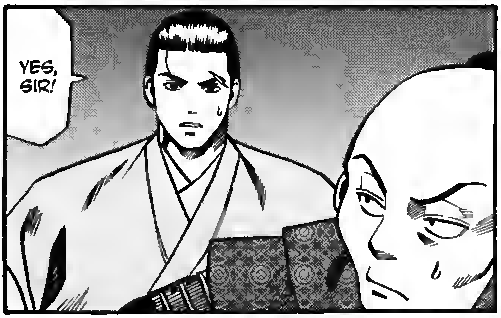
SFX. Appear

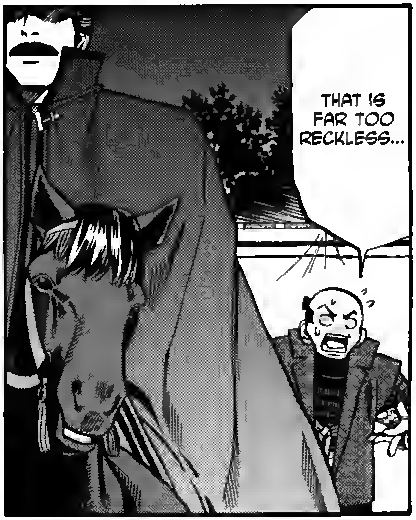
ドドド

TOO SLOW!
I AM TAKING KEN AND LEAVING.
FETCH KEN A HORSE!

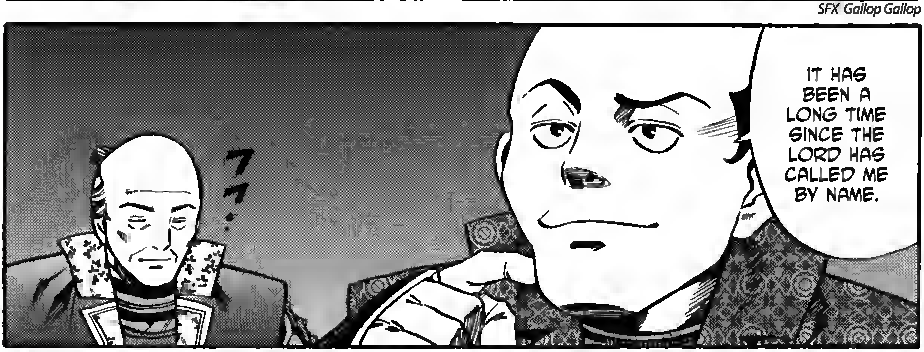

EH?!


HURRY!


YES, SIR!


THAT IS FAR TOO RECKLESS...

SFX Gallop Gallop

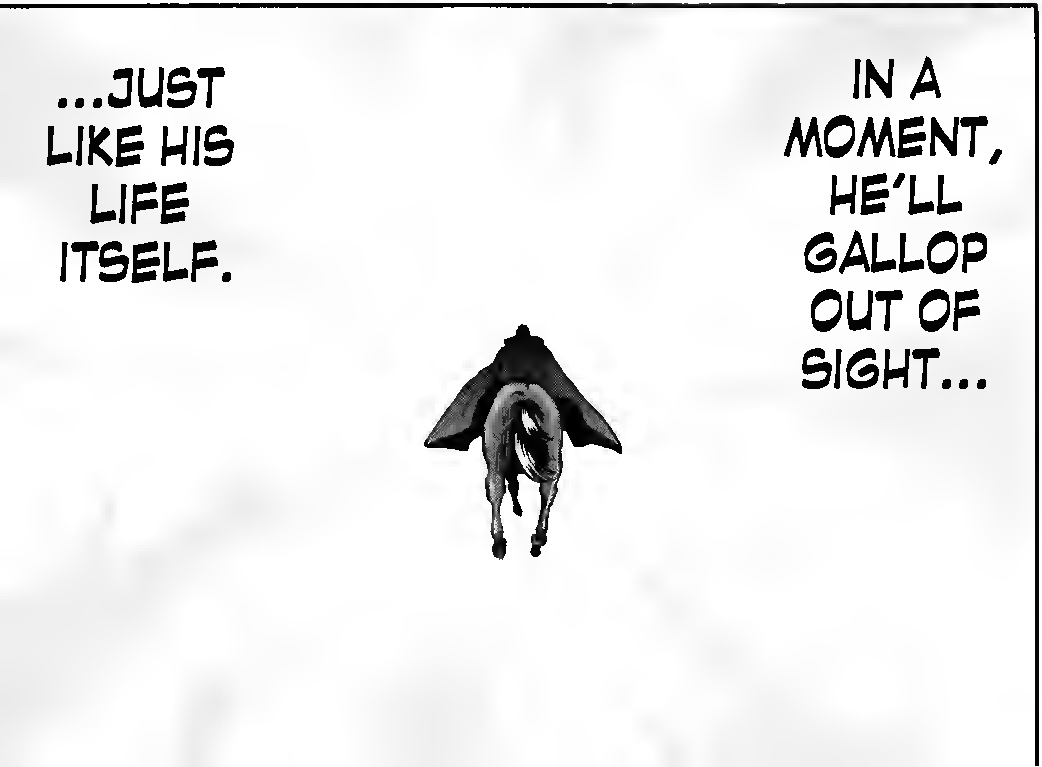


SFX Fufu...

...WE WILL BE IN A TOUGH SPOT, PROTECTING THIS RETREAT, DOES IT NOT...?
IT LOOKS LIKE...
WELL THEN, LET US GO DO OUR PART.
Haha. WHAT A JOKER...
I DO NOT CARE IF YOU RUN WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS, YOU KNOW.
...AND THEIR VALOR AND COMPETENCE AS GENERALS BECAME WELL RESPECTED.
DURING THIS BATTLE, HIDEYOSHI AND MITSUHIDE BRILLIANTLY FENDED OFF ASAKURA'S ATTACKING ARMY...

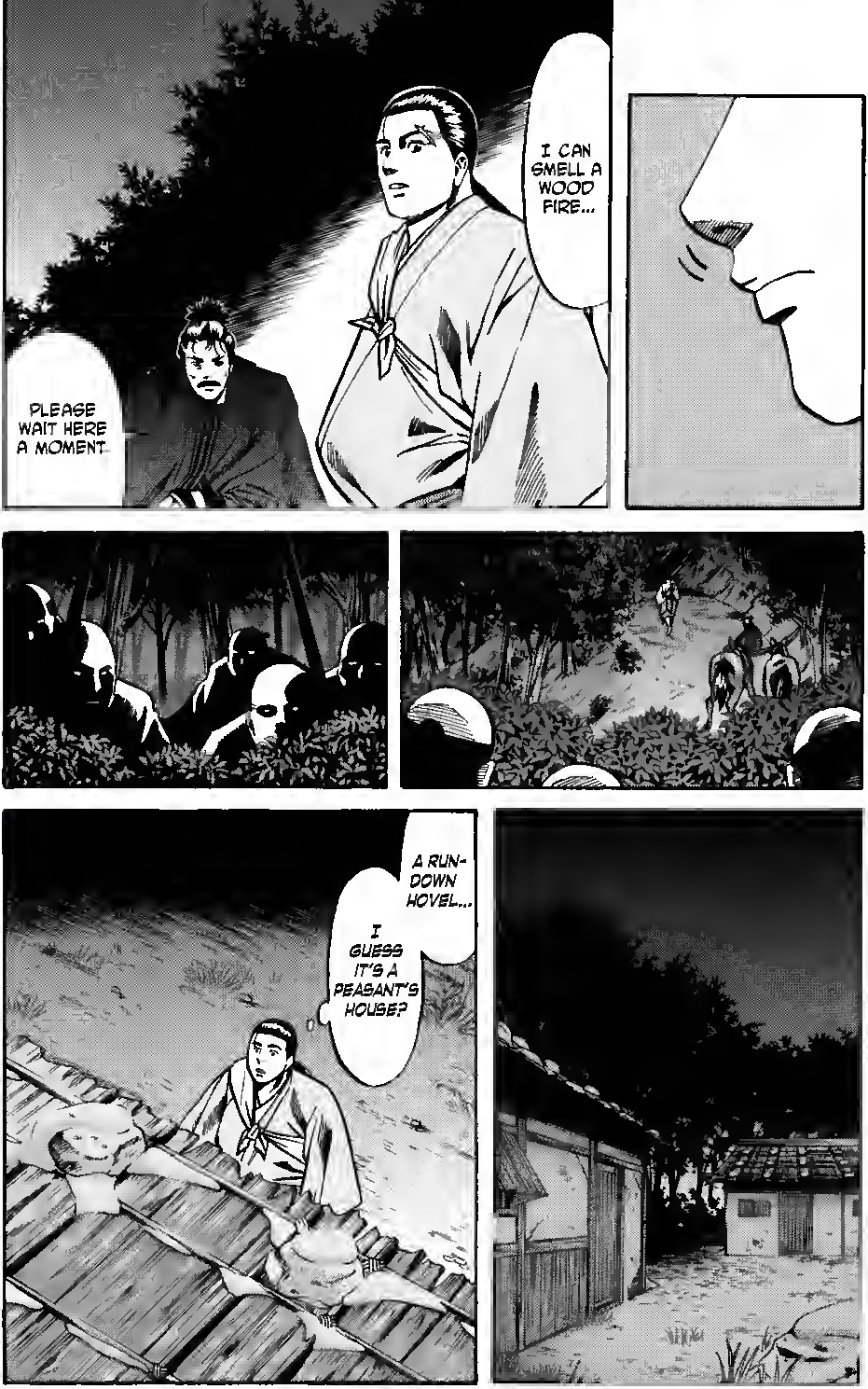
SFX Gallop Gallop Gallop Gallop
ドドド

HE'S SMILING...
I'M SURE THIS MAN WOULDN'T EVEN GLANCE BACK.
EVEN IF I FELL OFF MY HORSE...
SFX: Notice


...JUST LIKE HIS LIFE ITSELF.
IN A MOMENT, HE'LL GALLOP OUT OF SIGHT...

SFX Rustle
SFX Whinneeey

IT LOOKS LIKE A SPRAIN.
LET US GO.
CAN YOU STAND?
IN THIS DARKNESS, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
PLEASE WAIT...

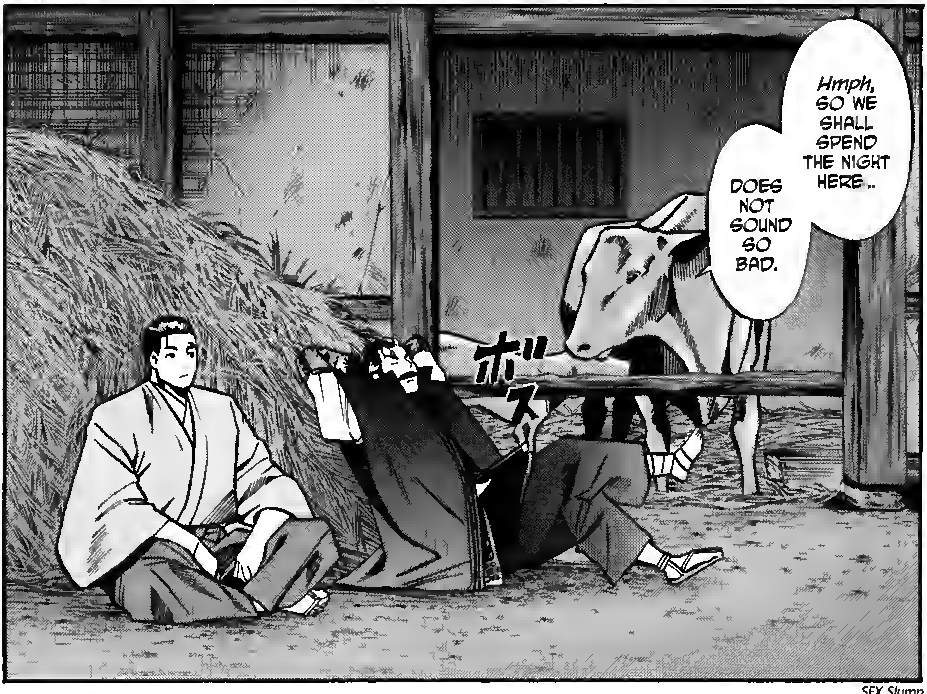

I CAN SMELL A WOOD FIRE...
PLEASE WAIT HERE A MOMENT
A RUN-DOWN HOVEL...
I GUESS IT'S A PEASANT'S HOUSE?

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SO LATE AT NIGHT.
I GOT LOST OUT ON THE ROAD...
COULD YOU OPEN UP?
SFX. Knock Knock
ドン
ドン
キィ
イィ..
SFX Cmrk.
IT'S NOT MUCH AS THANKS, BUT...
PLEASE TAKE THIS RICE...
COULD WE PLEASE HIDE OUT UNDER YOUR EAVES TO TAKE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN TONIGHT?

SFX Gesture

SFX Snatch

SFX Mooo

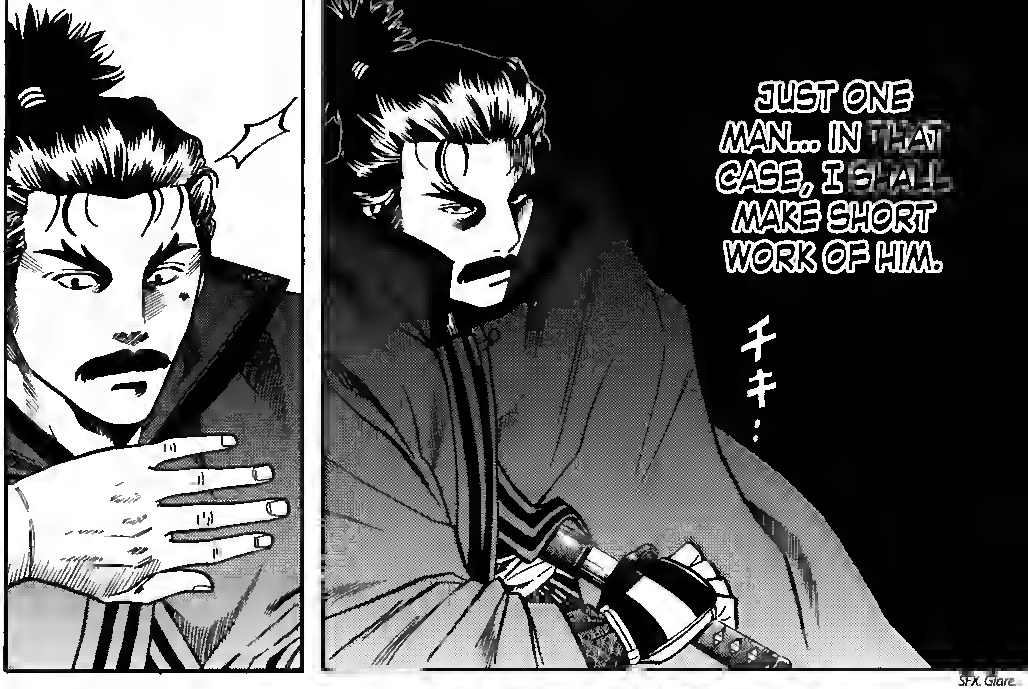


SFX Slump

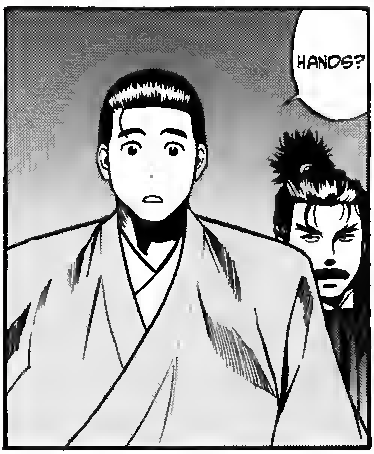
WHY...
WHY D'YOU REFUSE TO TAKE YOUR MOUNTED GUARDS WITH YOU AND TAKE *ME* INSTEAD?
IF I TOOK THE GUARDS, I WOULD JUST STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
AND AS FOR YOU, YOU HAVE HAD THE LUCK TO GET THROUGH A NUMBER OF CLOSE CALLS UP UNTIL NOW...
...SO I AM GAMBLING ON YOU.
SFX Rattle
カリ
カラ

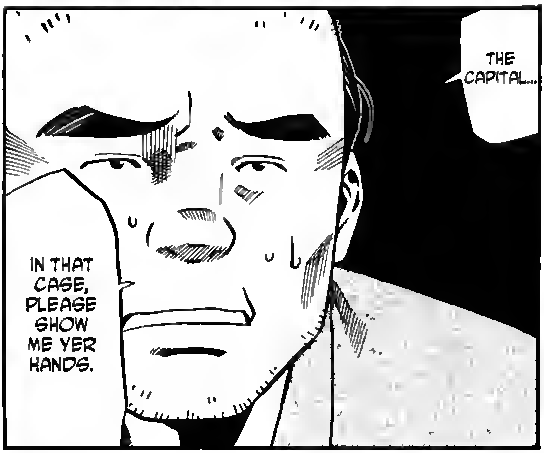
SFX: Rattle Rattle
...
SO WE HAVE BEEN HAD.
...OR AZAI'S?!
ASA-KURA'S FOLLOW-ERS...?

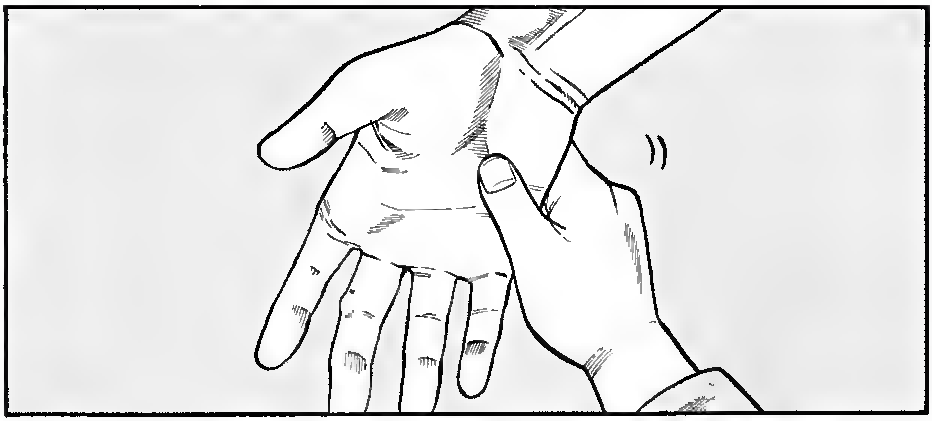
Chapter 19 In Oumi

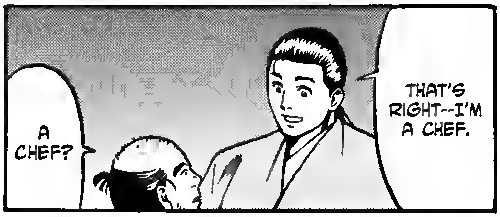

JUST ONE MAN... IN THAT CASE, I SHALL MAKE SHORT WORK OF HIM.
チキ…
SFX: Glare

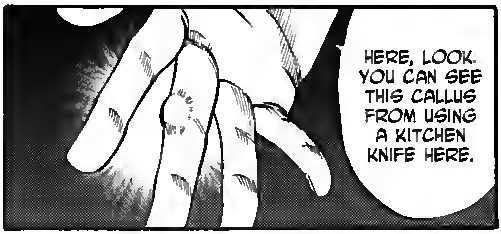
WE CAME FROM THE CAPITAL.
FROM THE CAPITAL.


HANDS?


THE CAPITAL...
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE SHOW ME YER HANDS.

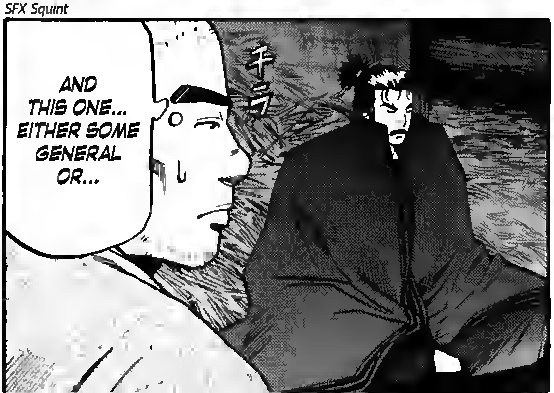






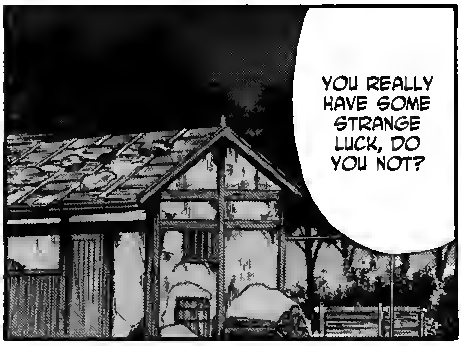
SFX Rattle

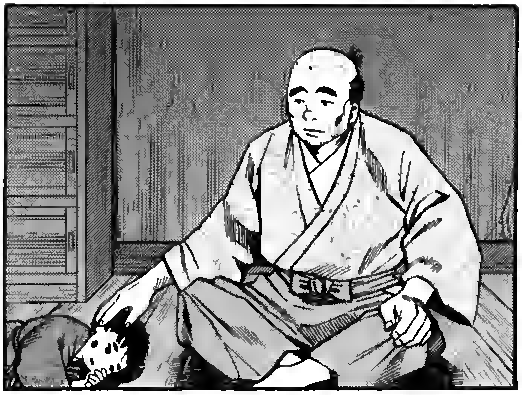
SFX Squint



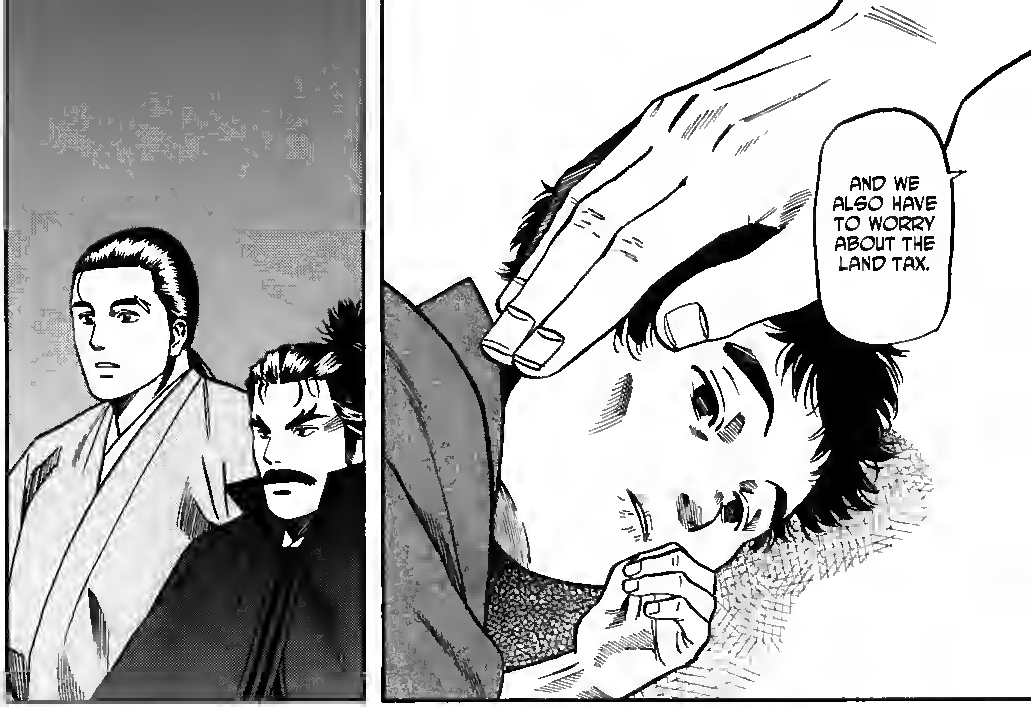
Hmm...

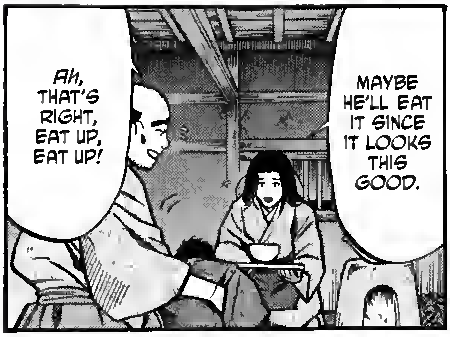
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S THE MAN OF THE HOUSE.
LET'S ACCEPT HIS HOSPITALITY.

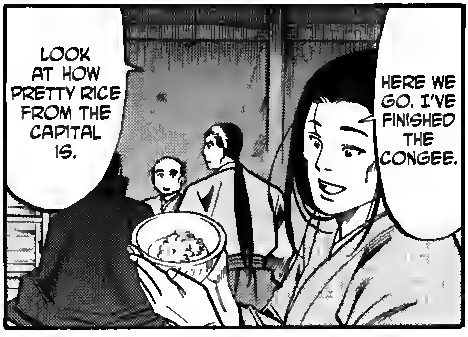

YOU REALLY HAVE SOME STRANGE LUCK, DO YOU NOT?



SO YOU'VE NEVER WORKED AS A FOOT SOLDIER?
...SINCE YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY MIGHT DO TO YA.
I HATE SOLDIERS...
MILITIA?
JUST MILITIA.
NO WAY! NOTHING AS BIG AS A FOOT SOLDIER...
TEMPORARILY LEVIED BASIC TROOPS.
THEY HAUL SUPPLIES AROUND AND SUCH.
BUT I WON'T HAVE A CHOICE IF THE HEADMAN ORDERS US.
I DON'T WANNA GO TO MORE WARS.


AND WE ALSO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE LAND TAX.


Ah, THAT'S RIGHT, EAT UP, EAT UP!
MAYBE HE'LL EAT IT SINCE IT LOOKS THIS GOOD.

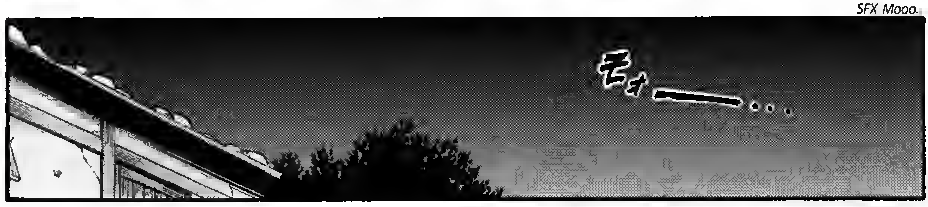

LOOK AT HOW PRETTY RICE FROM THE CAPITAL IS.
HERE WE GO. I'VE FINISHED THE CONGEE.

IF YA DON'T EAT UP, YOU'LL DIE.

Aaah...

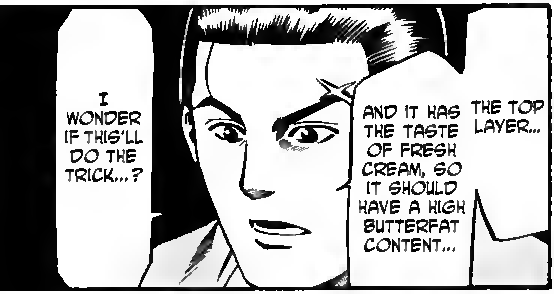
EXCUSE ME.
WE DUNNO, BUT SINCE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, HE WON'T EAT A MORSEL.
IS HE SUFFERING FROM SOME ILLNESS?
HE DOESN'T HAVE A FEVER.
HE JUST LOOKS EMACIATED...
SO HE'S WEAK ON ACCOUNT OF POOR NUTRITION.
ALL THE INGREDIENTS I HAVE AT HAND ARE MISO AND SALT...
NOTHING THAT'D BE NUTRITIOUS AND REVITALISING...

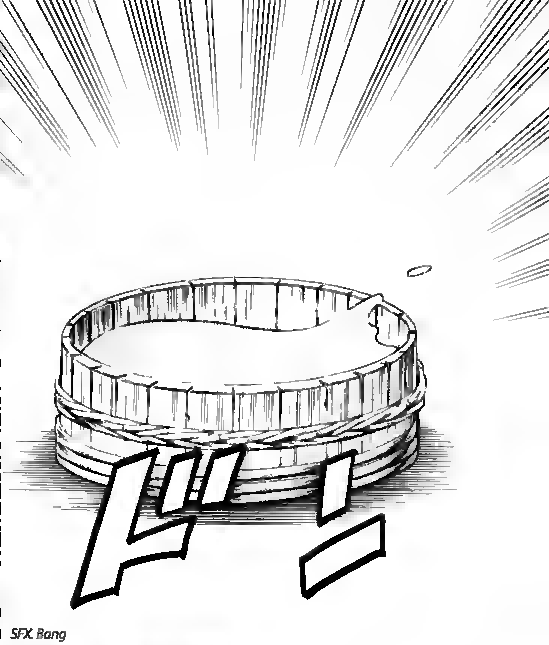
SFX Mooo...



SFX Stand...

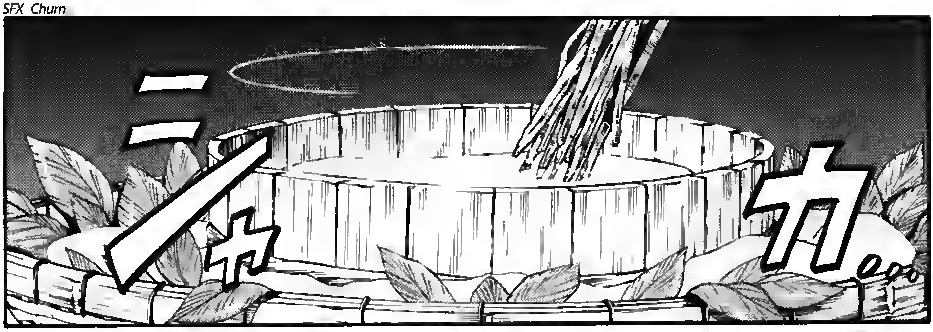
SFX Lick





SFX Bang

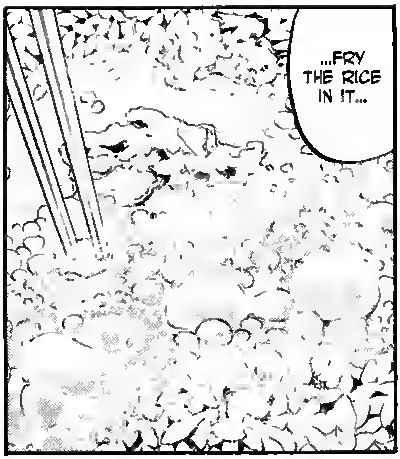
SFX Churn



SFX Churnnnnn

SFX: nnnnnnnnnnnnn
SFX: nnnnnn
SFX: Churnnnn
SFX: nnnn
IT'S STILL NOT...
UGH...
SFX: nnnnn
SFX: nnnnn
AH, SURE...
SORRY, COULD YOU FILL THE WOODEN BOWL UP WITH SOME MORE COLD SNOW FROM OUTSIDE.
PLEASE, GET FIRM!
IF I STOP NOW, I'LL LOSE ALL THE PROGRESS I MADE...

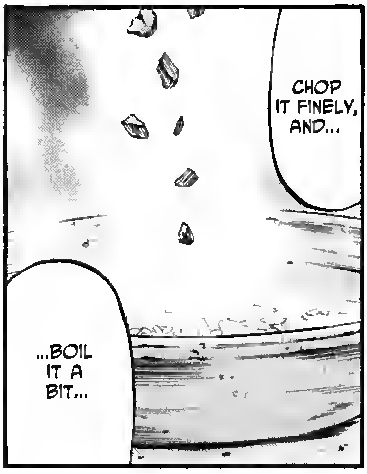
JUST A BIT LONGER...!
FINALLY, THE LIQUID AND THE FAT HAVE BEGUN TO SEPARATE!
SFX nnnnnn
SFX nnn
SFX nnnn
SFX Klack
IT'S DONE...!

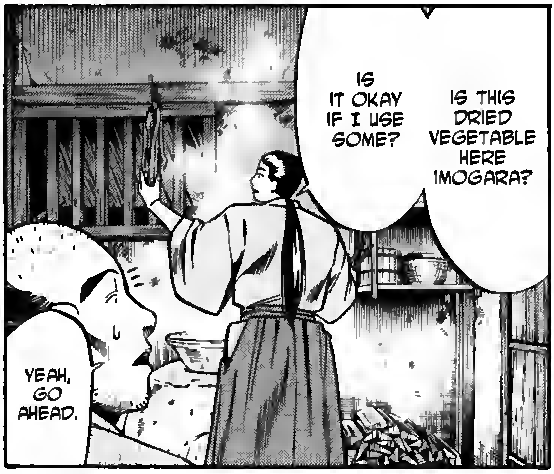

...FRY THE RICE IN IT...

SFX Tssss

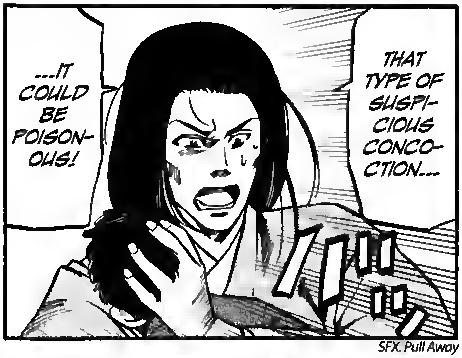
ADD SOME WATER...

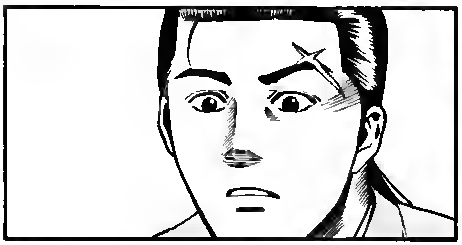
I'LL PUT ONE TABLE-SPOON OF THIS INTO THE POT...
GOOD! NOW I CAN START COOKING!


CHOP IT FINELY, AND...
...BOIL IT A BIT...


IS IT OKAY IF I USE SOME?
IS THIS DRIED VEGETABLE HERE IMOGARA?
YEAH, GO AHEAD.

...AND WE HAVE AN IMOGARA RISOTTO.

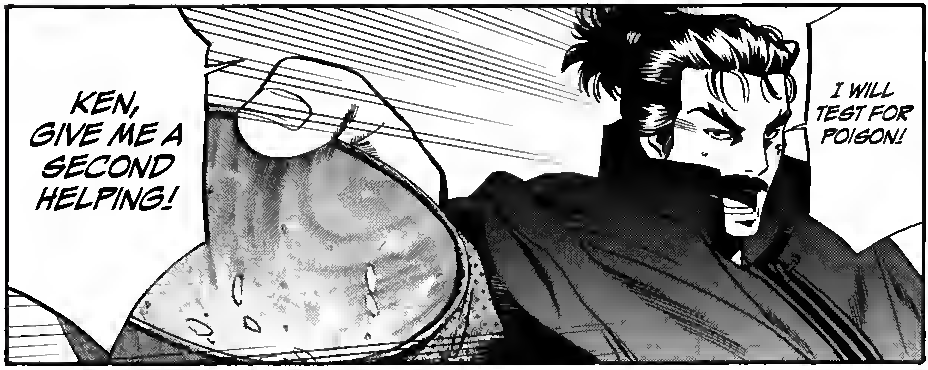

...IT COULD BE POISON-OUS!
THAT TYPE OF SUSPI-CIOUS CONCO-CTION...
SFX: Pull Away

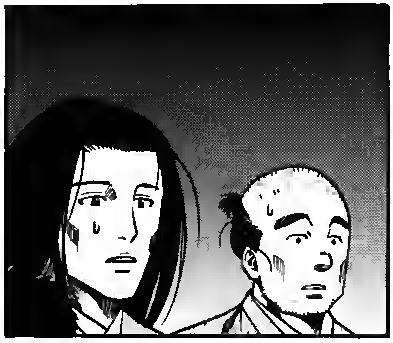


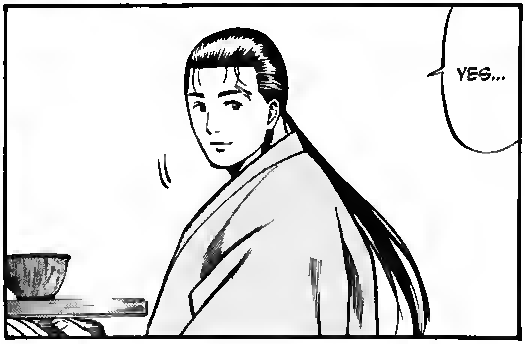
PLEASE FEED SOME TO THE CHILD.

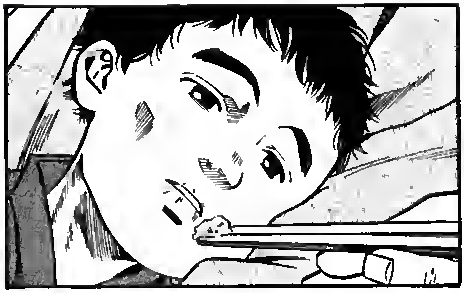
SFX: Slurp Slurp Slurp
ずずず

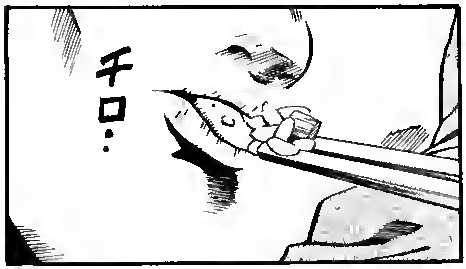
IT'S NOTHING OF THE SORT....
カコン
SFX: Lift


KEN, GIVE ME A SECOND HELPING!
I WILL TEST FOR POISON!




YES...




チロ

SFX Lick

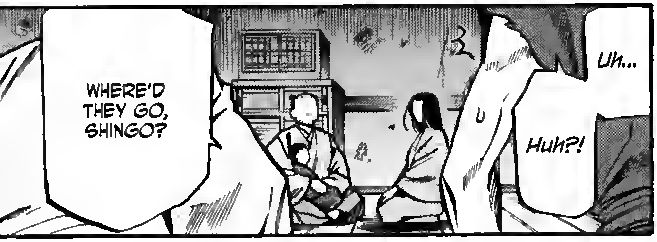
THE YELLOW STUFF I MADE FROM THE MILK A MOMENT AGO IS CALLED BUTTER.
IT'S THE KING OF ANIMAL FATS AND RICH IN NUTRIENTS, INCLUDING VITAMIN A.
IT SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE AT HELPING HIS BODY RECOVER AND HIS FATIGUE GO AWAY.

HE ATE IT!

IN NANBAN COOKING, IT'S AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT...
BUT IT WAS FIRST USED, NOT AS FOOD-STUFF, BUT AS MEDICINE.
YOU CAN PRESERVE IT BY LEAVING IT IN THE SNOW...
...SO JUST USE A BIT AT A TIME AND HE SHOULD RECOVER.
THAN...
THANK YOU SO MUCH... *Sobs!*

ONE.. TWO... AND...

SFX: Bash


WHERE'D THEY GO, SHINGO?
Uh...
Huh?!

DON'T THINK YOU CAN HIDE FROM US!
GIVE UP!

THEY ESCAPED OUT THE BACK DOOR WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING.
SORRY...

WHAT THE HELL...
FROM THE LOOKS OF 'EM THEIR HEADS WOULD'VE BEEN WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD HAD WE BROUGHT 'EM IN!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
YOU HAVE MANAGED TO MAKE THOSE PEASANTS OWE YOU A DEBT...
...THOUGH YOU WILL PROBABLY NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN.
WHY DID YOU START COOKING...?
YOU COULD HAVE MUCH MORE EASILY IGNORED WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
I WANT TO LIVE.
...FELT LIKE THEY WERE SAYING...
'CAUSE THE BOY'S EYES...

I'M A CHEF...
TO HELP, WITHOUT FAIL, THOSE WHO'RE IN NEED...
TO EAT...
...IS TO LIVE.
WHATEVER THE AGE WE LIVE IN...
...AND WHATEVER HAPPENS...
...THAT ALONE, I'LL NEVER BACK DOWN FROM!

I SEE NOW...
IS THIS HOW WE ARE SIMILAR...?
SFX: Swivel
EH?
IT IS NOTHING.
LET US MOVE BEFORE THE MIST CLEARS.
YES, SIR.

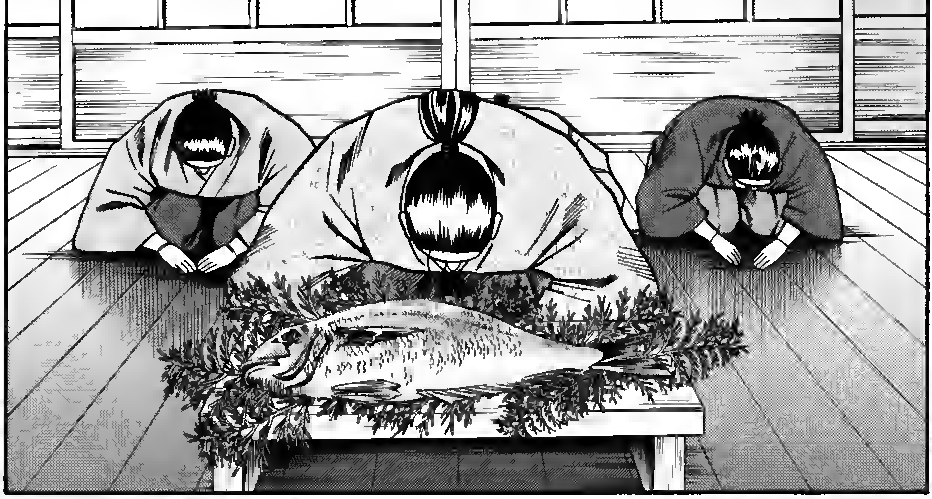
Chapter 20 Ieyasu and Sea Bream

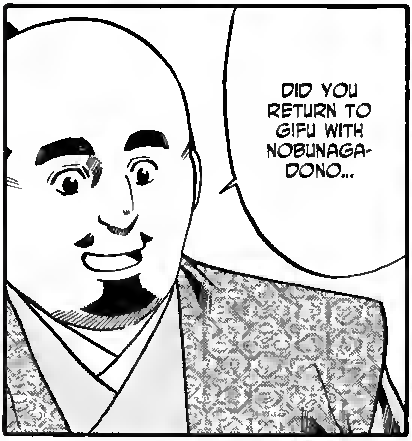
MAY OF THE 1ST YEAR OF THE GENKI (1570)
KYOTO
THAT I WAS NOT ABLE TO INCREASE THE GLORY OF THE TOKUGAWA NAME DURING THIS WAR...
...IS A TRUE SHAME.
WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT...
...YOU RETURNED SAFELY, TOKUGAWA-SAMA.
Mmh. I'LL JUST HAVE TO PUSH MY SCHEDULE BACK TO THE NEXT WAR.
SO? WAS NOBUNAGA-DONO ABLE TO RETURN TO GIFU...
SAKAI?

YES, SIR.
AZAI'S FORCES WERE CONCENTRATED AROUND THE WESTERN OUMI ROAD...
SO HE MADE A DETOUR THROUGH A ROAD TO ISE.
Tokugawa Vassal, Head of the Four Tokugawa Guardians
SAKAI TADATSUGU
IT APPEARS AS IF THE WIND'S NOT BLOWING IN HIS FAVOR THOUGH..
THAT IS THE ROKKAKU TERRITORY THAT WAS CONQUERED BY NOBUNAGA-DONO...
SO HE WENT THROUGH CHIGU-SA...
I JUST HOPE NOTHING HAPPENS TO HIM.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THE SITUATION.
UNTIL NOW, ODA-DONO HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, BUT NOW HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, AZAI NAGAMASA, HAS *BETRAYED* HIM AND HE IS FIGHTING TO HOLD HIS POSITION...

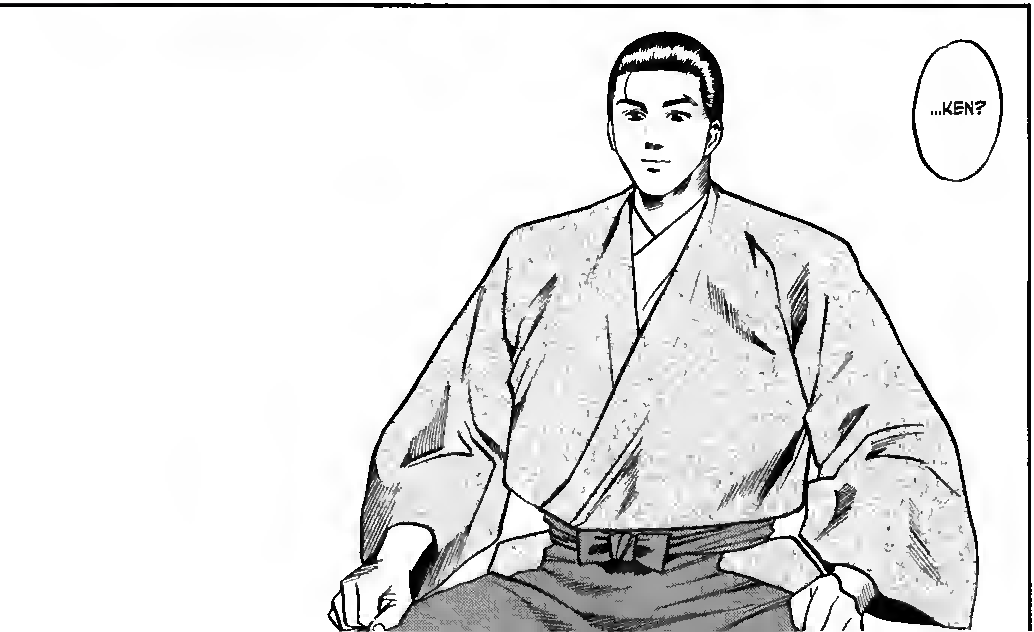
AFTER THIS RETREAT, NOBUNAGA'S OPPONENTS WILL GAIN GROUND.
AND I BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF DEFECTORS AS WELL.
...
YOU MEAN THAT I SHOULD DISTANCE MYSELF FROM NOBUNAGA-DONO?
...ARE THE ONLY RELIABLE PATHS TO WALK IN THIS WORLD OF WARRING STATES.
...TREACHERY AND TURNING DEPENDING ON THE CIR-CUMSTANCES...
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE AVOWED ALLIES...
WHAT IS IT?
TOKU-GAWA-SAMA..

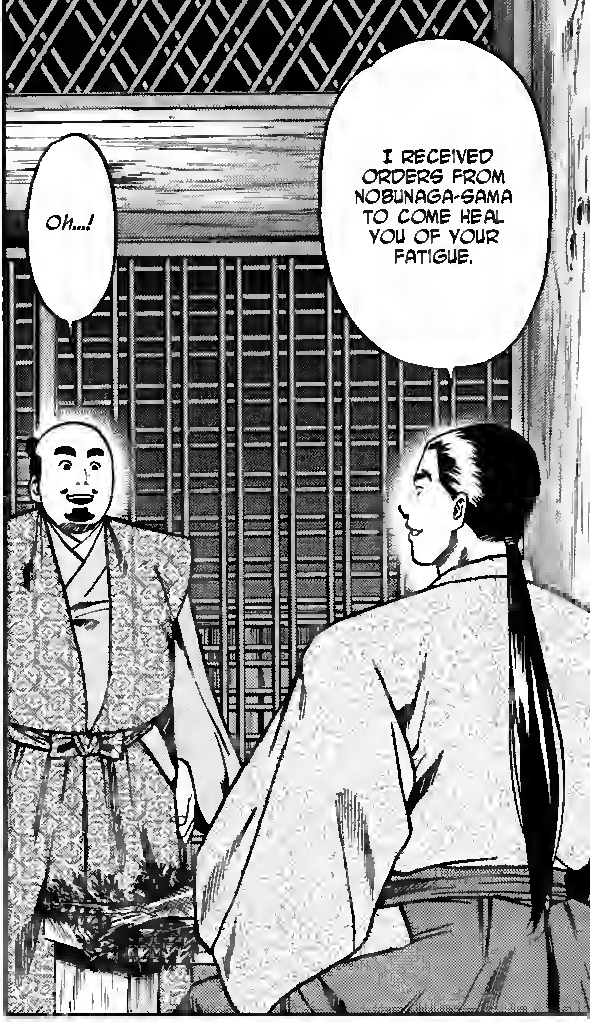
SFX Hohohoho

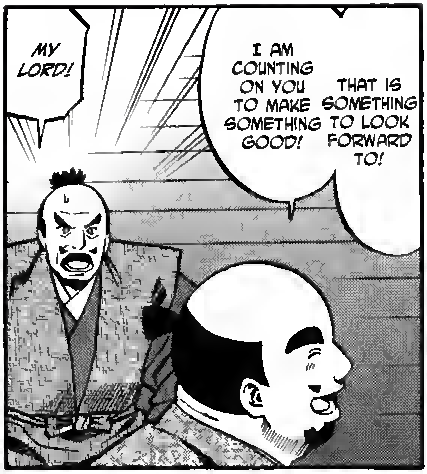



DID YOU RETURN TO GIFU WITH NOBUNAGA-DONO...

Oh, WOW, THAT IS A WONDERFUL SEA BREAM YOU HAVE THERE!

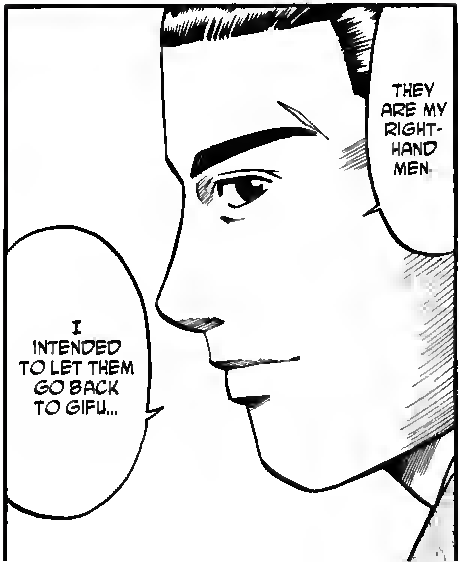

...KEN?


I RECEIVED ORDERS FROM NOBUNAGA-SAMA TO COME HEAL YOU OF YOUR FATIGUE.
Oh...!

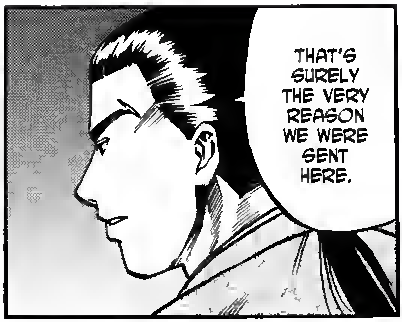

MY LORD!
I AM COUNTING ON YOU TO MAKE SOMETHING GOOD!
THAT IS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

YOU MUST GIVE ORDERS FOR AZAI'S ARMY AT ONCE...
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR SUCH THINGS...

MY LORD!
WHO ARE THOSE THREE BEHIND YOU?

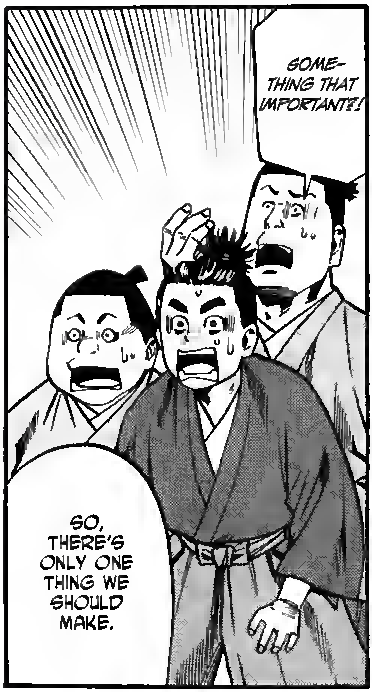

THEY ARE MY RIGHT-HAND MEN.
I INTENDED TO LET THEM GO BACK TO GIFU...

Oh, silently waiting behind...
Those are some good subordinates there, do you not think so, Sakai?
Tch...
They awaited my return.
But saying they wanted to be useful to me...
This temple is where I am staying...
Please use the kitchen here.
Yes, sir!


THAT'S SURELY THE VERY REASON WE WERE SENT HERE.

IT'S LIKE...
WE'RE NOT ALL THAT WELCOME FOR SOME REASON...

EH?
OUR LORD WAS JUST BETRAYED BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW WHOM HE'D TRUSTED.


SOME-THING THAT IMPORTANT?!
SO, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE SHOULD MAKE.

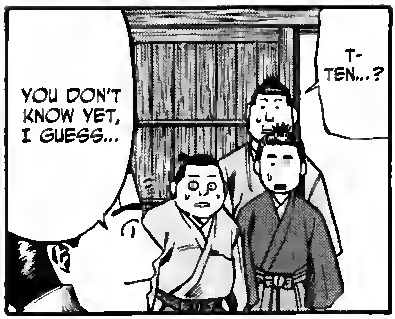
IF THE TOKUGAWA BETRAYED HIM NOW, THEN *NEVERMIND* UNIFYING THE NATION, HE'D PROBABLY BE OBLITERATED...
THE MISSION HE'S GIVEN US...
...S TO KEEP TOKUGAWA ON OUR SIDE.

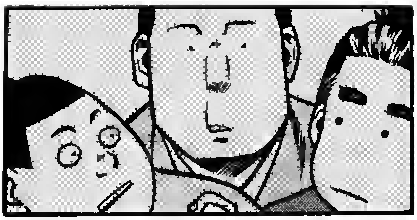
TEMPURA

EITHER SEAFOOD OR VEGETABLES THAT HAVE BEEN COATED IN FLOUR AND DEEP FRIED.

BY THIS TIME, THIS TYPE OF OIL-BASED COOKING HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN KYUSHU FROM EUROPE, BUT IT WAS ONLY DURING THE EDO PERIOD THAT IT TOOK THE MODERN NAME AND FORM OF TEMPURA.

IT'S SAID THAT TOKUGAWA LIKED THIS FOOD A LOT IN LATER LIFE.





SFX Woot

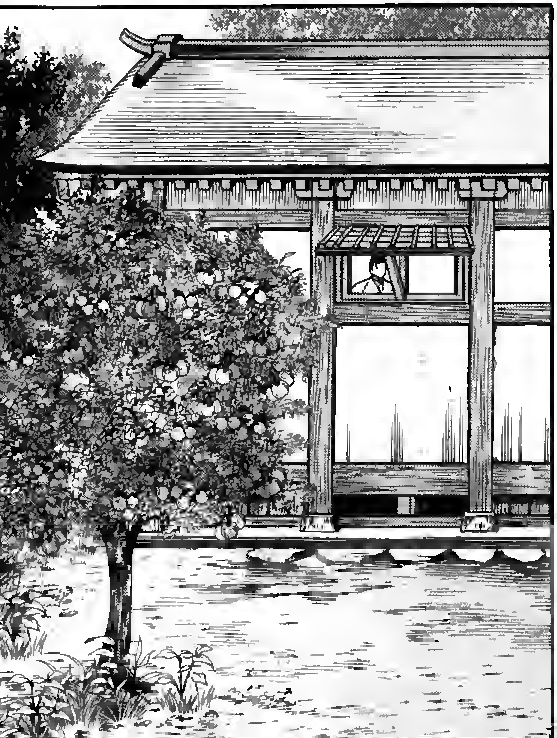
YOU FORGOT TO BUY THE OIL?!
I'M SORRY!
EVEN THOUGH WE TRIED TO HELP BY GOING OUT TO BUY THE SUPPLIES...
WE'RE REALLY SORRY!
I-IT'S FINE...
WE'LL JUST GET OIL FROM A DUCK LIKE WE OFTEN DO THEN.
...!
BOOOS...
WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO COOK WITH ANIMALS IN A TEMPLE.

...
THAT'S BAD.

A SUB-STITUTE! AN OIL SUB-STITUTE...
WHAT ELSE CAN WE USE?!
SEARCH!
FOR OIL WE'D NEED SESAME SEEDS... OR WILD SESAME OR SOMETHING.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE COULD USE...?

SFX Gasp



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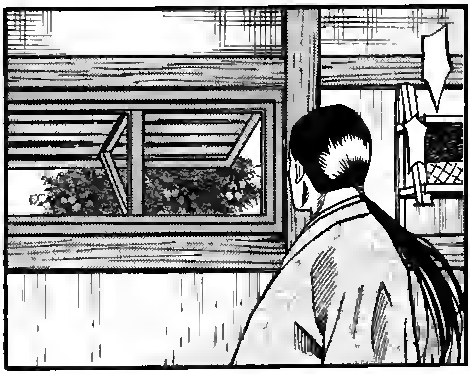


THOSE ARE...!
I FIRST MET NOBUNAGA-DONO...
..WHEN I WAS STILL CALLED BY MY CHILDHOOD NICKNAME, TAKECHIYO.
I WAS BEING TRANSPORTED TO IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO'S HOUSEHOLD AS A FAMILY HOSTAGE...
..WHEN MY STEPMOTHER'S FATHER, TODA YASUMITSU, ABDUCTED ME...
...AND SENT ME AS A HOSTAGE TO THE ODA CLAN INSTEAD.
FROM THE DARK ROOM WHENCE I WAS SHUT ALL THE TIME...
...I WAS ALWAYS STARING OUTSIDE.

IT LOOKED SO WONDERFUL, IT MADE ME JEALOUS...
I COULD ALWAYS SEE NOBUNAGA-OONO ACTING SO FREELY.
OUT THERE...
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
SFX Slip.

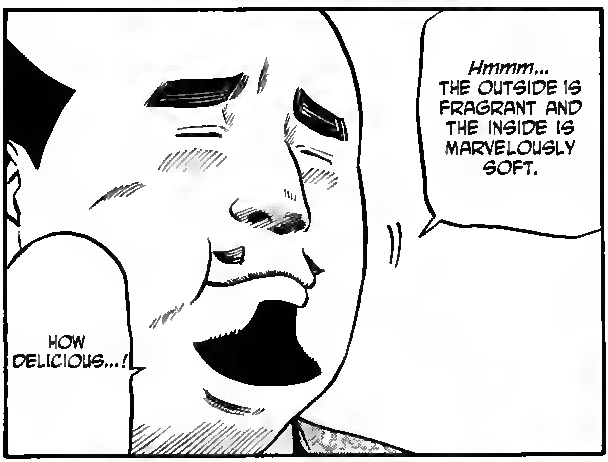
Ooh...!
OF ALL THINGS... THIS MAN...
KEN, WHAT IS THIS CALLED ...?
SFX. Sit
SFX. Tremble Tremble

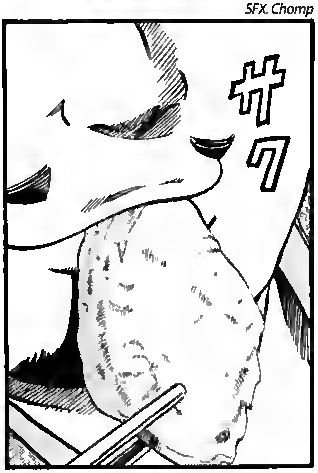
TO THINK THAT HE REALLY DID MAKE OIL FROM SCRATCH!
SAUTÉED SEA BREAM TEMPURA STYLE
EEH?!
FROM THESE CAMELLIA NUTS?
SFX: Inspect
YES.
THEY'RE A BIT GREEN, BUT OILY ENOUGH.
IF WE USE THE FRENCH METHOD FOR PREPARING BEURRE DE CREVETTES (SHRIMP BUTTER)...
THEN WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TROUBLE MAKING IT.

...THEN WE POUR THEM INTO A POT OF BOILING WATER.
FIRST WE CRUSH THE CAMELLIA SEEDS...
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS USE A LADLE TO SKIM THE TOP LAYER OF OIL INTO ANOTHER POT...
...GOOD!
...BOIL THAT DOWN TO EVAPORATE THE WATER CONTENT...
...AND WE HAVE GOLDEN CAMELLIA OIL!

SFX Tremble Tremble

SFX. Chomp



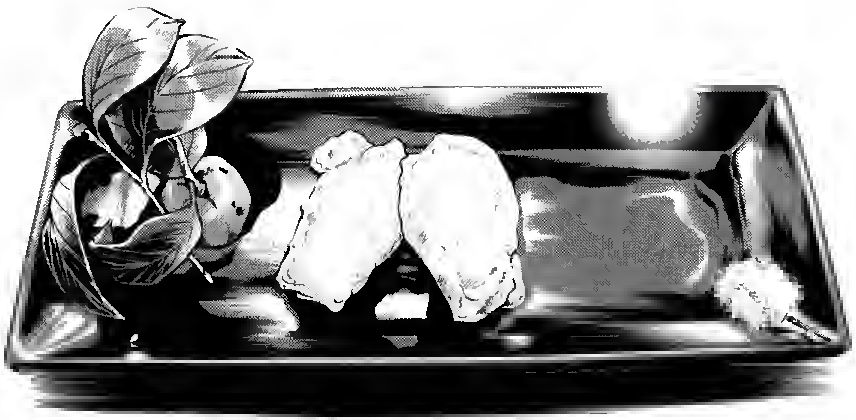


TAKE-CHIYO...
TAKECHIYO...
I DON'T WANT...
...THAT KIND OF THING!
SFX: Pout
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?
IT'S A NIGIRI RICE BALL.
WANT A BITE?

HA HA HA!
YOU'RE QUITE PLUCKY FOR A HOSTAGE!
SFX: Pat
I LIKE THAT!
SOME SEA BREAM!
SEA BREAM!
SFX: Run Run
UH, HEY...
WHAT ABOUT MY SEA BREAM?
YOU LITTLE PUNK! YOU'RE MERELY A HOSTAGE, SO THERE IS NO WAY YOU COULD GET SEA BREAM--I'M NOT THAT NICE OF A GUY HERE.
BUT... LET'S SEE...
NOBU-NAGA-SAMA...
NOBU-NAGA-SAMA!
TCH, UNCLE OR SOME OTHER LOUD MOUTH HAS APPEARED.
SEE YA!

...THEN I WILL GIVE YOU THE MOST DELICIOUS SEA BREAM IN THE WORLD.

IF YOU BECOME SOMEONE WHO IS NECESSARY TO ME...

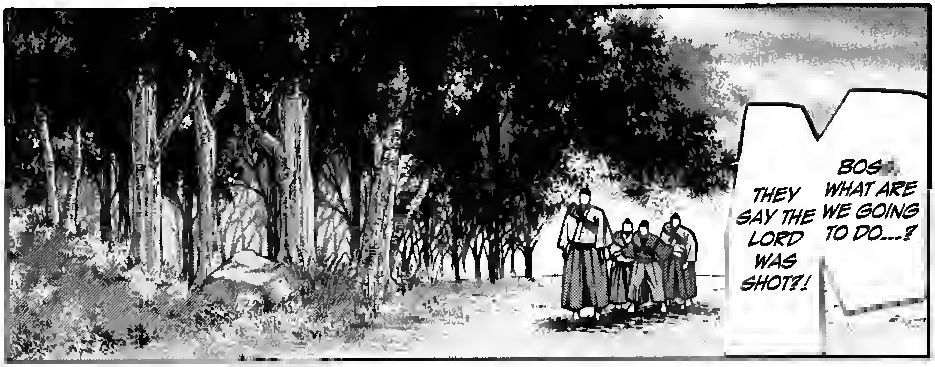


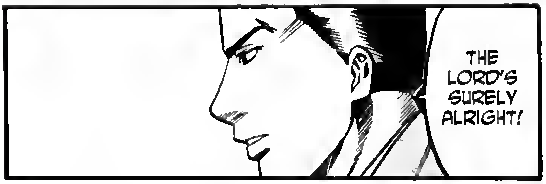
ODA NOBUNAGA-DONO HAS BEEN AMBUSHED BY A NUMBER OF MEN AT CHIGUSA PASS.
TOKU-GAWA-GAMA...
THERE IS A MESSAGE FROM AN EMERGENCY ENVOY!
SFX Rattle
SFX Chomp
MY LORD... AS EXP-ECTED...
AND... AND IS NOBUNAGA-DONO SAFE?!
I KNOW NOT.

YOU ALSO BELIEVE IN NOBUNAGA-DONO, IS THAT NOT SO?
FRET NOT! THAT MAN IS BLESSED BY THE HEAVENS.
HE SHAN'T DIE AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
SFX Nom Nom
KEN...
...CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO NOBUNAGA-DONO...
...IN OUR NEXT BATTLE, I, TOKUGAWA, SHALL CUT THROUGH THE ENEMY VANGUARD...
...WHOEVER OUR OPPONENT MIGHT BE.

BOSS!

Chapter 21


THEY SAY THE LORD WAS SHOT?!
BOSS, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...?


THE LORD'S SURELY ALRIGHT!

IT'S ALRIGHT.
EH...? B-BUT...!

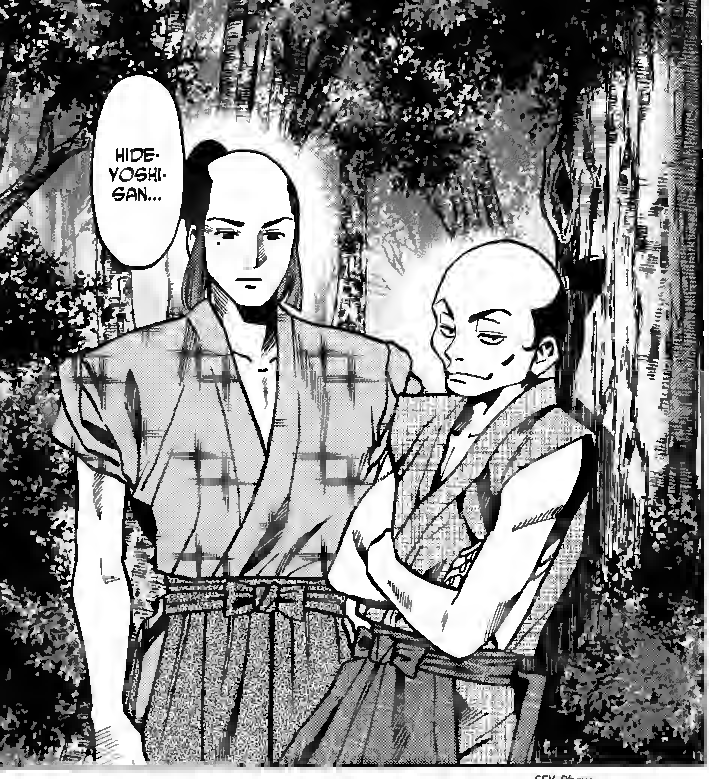
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY EVENTS THAT AFFECT NOBUNAGA'S LIFE AT THIS POINT IN HISTORY.

...REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?
BUT IS THAT...

...PEOPLE WHO SHOULD'VE LIVED MIGHT DIE...

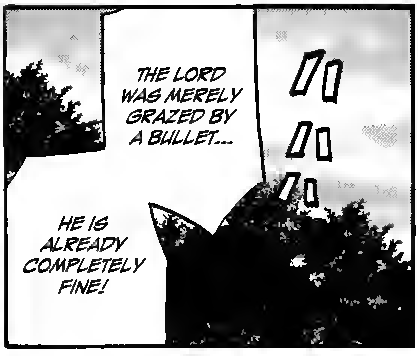
BECAUSE I'M NOW INFLUENCING THIS ERA...

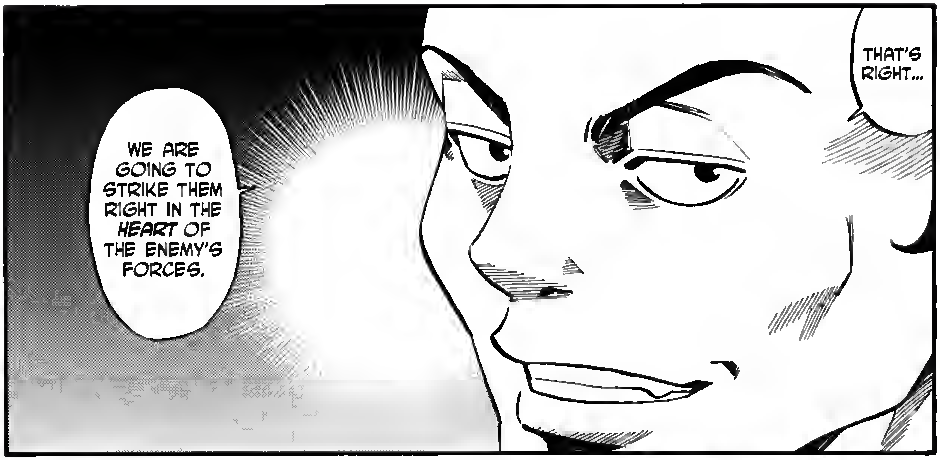
CAN I REALLY AFFORD TO SAY THAT'S NOT TRUE...?!

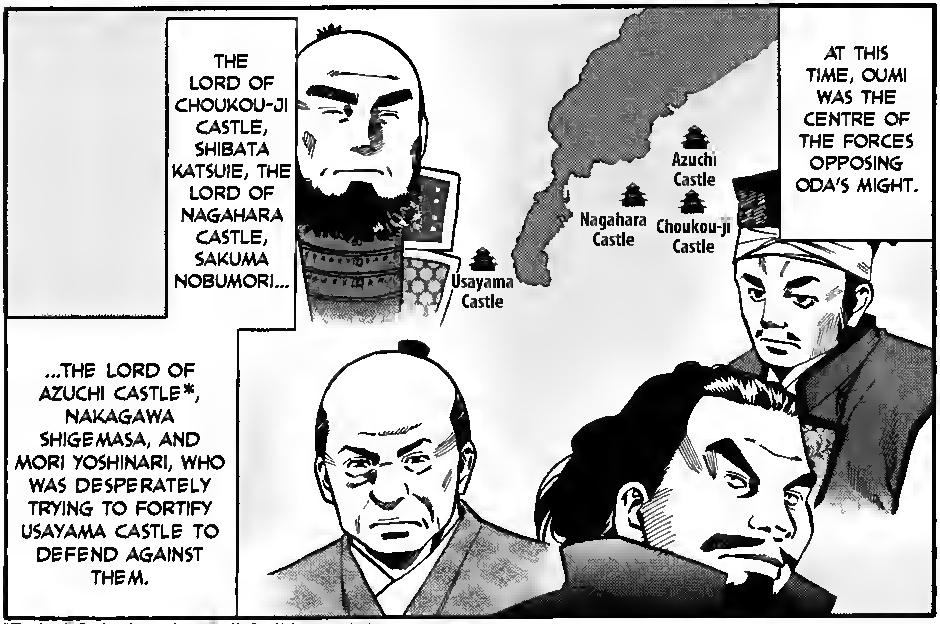


SFX Hahaha

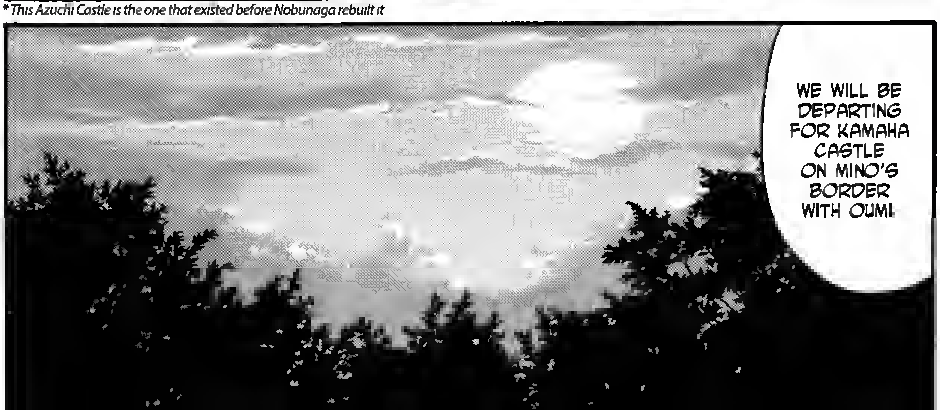
SFX Phew



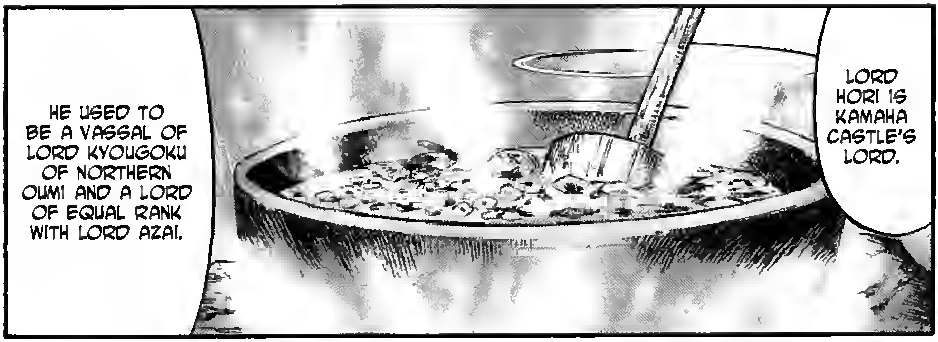


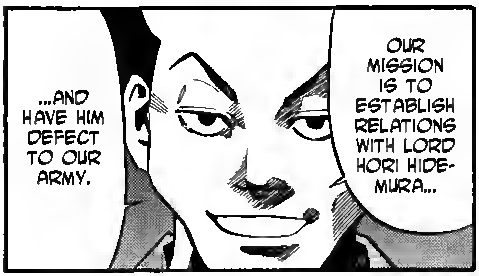

THE LORD OF CHOUKOU-JI CASTLE, SHIBATA KATSUIE, THE LORD OF NAGAHARA CASTLE, SAKUMA NOBUMORI...
AT THIS TIME, OUMI WAS THE CENTRE OF THE FORCES OPPOSING ODA'S MIGHT.
Azuchi Castle
Nagahara Castle
Choukou-ji Castle
Usayama Castle
...THE LORD OF AZUCHI CASTLE*, NAKAGAWA SHIGEMASA, AND MORI YOSHINARI, WHO WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO FORTIFY USAYAMA CASTLE TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM.

*This Azuchi Castle is the one that existed before Nobunaga rebuilt it

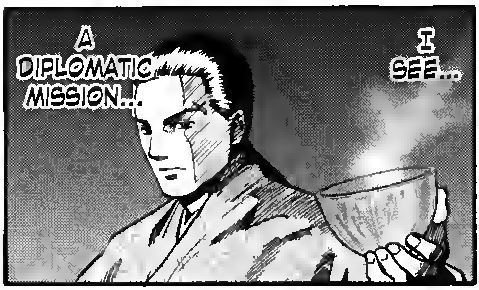


SFX Gasp
MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES!
WITH THESE NUMBERS AND THOSE OUTFITS... YOU AREN'T EVEN WEARING SWORDS!
EH, WHAT?! WE'RE HEADING TO THE FRONT LINES TOO?!
SFX Clack
AND WITH THIS OUTFIT WE WON'T STAND OUT AS SAMURAI, SO IT'S BETTER.
IT IS NOT AS THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE SWORDS THOUGH.
I WILL LET THAT PASS...
EH?
THE WEAPON WE NEED IN THIS BATTLE IS KEN'S COOKING.

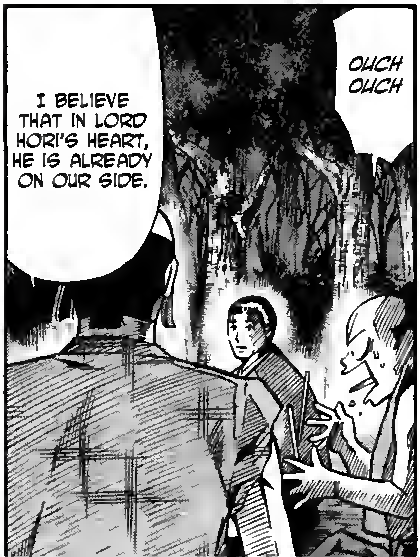

LORD HORI IS KAMAHA CASTLE'S LORD.
HE USED TO BE A VASSAL OF LORD KYOUGOKU OF NORTHERN OUMI AND A LORD OF EQUAL RANK WITH LORD AZAI.


OUR MISSION IS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH LORD HORI HIDEMURA...
...AND HAVE HIM DEFECT TO OUR ARMY.

BUT AFTER LORD AZAI CONQUERED LORD KYOUGOKU'S TERRITORY...
...LORD HORI SURRENDERED TO LORD AZAI


I SEE...
A DIPLOMATIC MISSION...

SFX Om


OUCH OUCH
I BELIEVE THAT IN LORD HORI'S HEART, HE IS ALREADY ON OUR SIDE.

THAT REGION IS A BOTTLENECK ON THE ROAD FROM GIFU TO THE CAPITAL.
WHATEVER IT TAKES, WE MUST BRING LORD HORI TO OUR SIDE!
カリッ

THERE IS JUST ONE PROBLEM...
MMM, THANKS TO TAKENAKA'S GOOD WORK.
LORD HORI HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THE ENTERPRISES OUR LORD HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT.
Hideyoshi's confidant
TAKENAKA HANBEE
HIGU-CHI?
HIGUCHI, IS IT...?
HIGUCHI IS HORI'S REGENT WHO CONTROLS THE DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS OF THE CLAN.
ONE OF HORI HIDEMURA'S VASSALS.

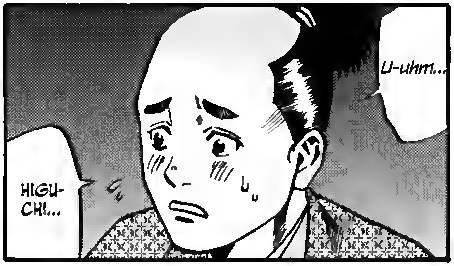
THIS HIGUCHI SUPPORTS LORD AZAI.
...AND SINCE THE LORD IS FRAIL, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND UP TO WHAT HIGUCHI DICTATES.
SO A CONSERVATIVE VASSAL AND A FRAIL LORD.
WE JUST HAVE TO GIVE HIM ONE FINAL PUSH.
WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT IN HIS HEART, LORD HORI IS ALREADY ON OUR LORD'S SIDE...

KEN, SOMETHING THAT WILL GIVE LORD HORI MORE COURAGE...
...THAT IS THE KIND OF FOOD WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO MAKE.

WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GRANTING US THIS AUDIENCE.
THIS IS THE LORD?
Oh, Uh...
YES...
HE'S JUST A YOUNG KID.
CONSIDERING THE REQUEST CAME FROM THE LORD'S OLD FRIEND, TAKENAKA HANBEE-DONO...
...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOLITE TO REFUSE.

NOW LET US HEAR WHAT YOU CAME FOR.
SFX: Nod
HIGUCHI-DONO, YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
WE ARE HERE TO REQUEST THAT YOU LEND YOUR STRENGTH TO NOBUNAGA'S ARMY.
LET US GET TO THE POINT THEN.
IS THAT NOT WHAT IS SAID?
THE ENEMY OF AN ENEMY IS A FRIEND...
YOU ARE ASKING US TO BETRAY AZAI-DONO?

...BUT THE LORD IS STILL TOO YOUNG AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE REALITY...
GOOD GRIEF... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT RUBBISH TAKENAKA HAS BEEN FEEDING OUR LORD...


U-uhm...
HIGU-CHI!...

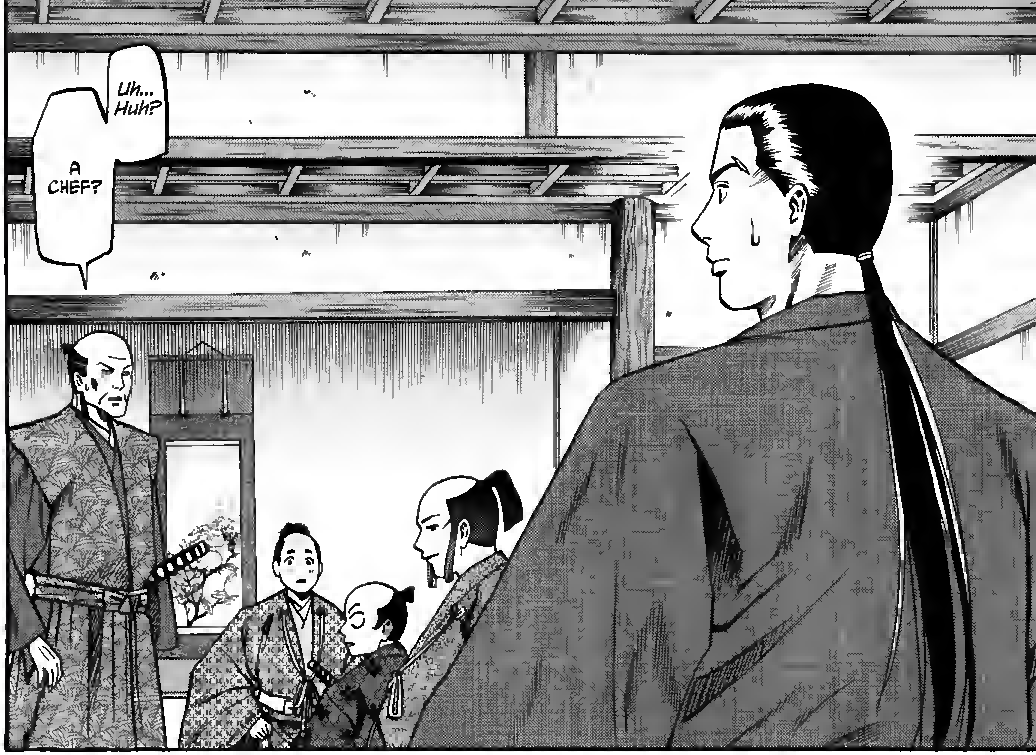
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SPARKS MIGHT LEAP FROM THAT MAN AND SINGE OUR LORD OR ALL OF THE HORI CLAN.
NOBUNAGA IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS!

SFX Swip

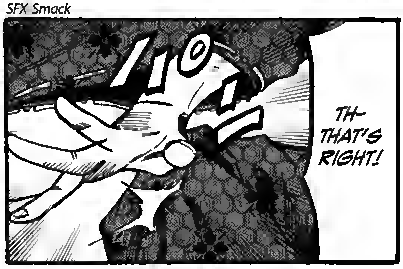
WE WILL NEED MORE TIME TO CONSIDER YOUR OFFER...
ス
...SO WE REQUEST THAT AT THIS POINT, YOU LEAVE FOR THE DAY.

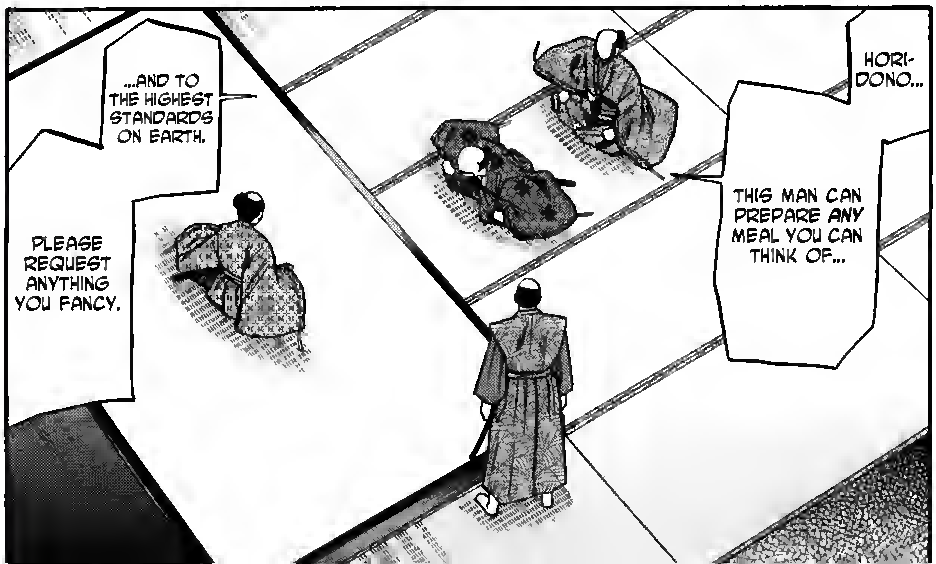
BY NO MEANS DO I WISH TO BELITTLE THE STRENGTH OF THE ODA CLAN...
...BUT WE MUST CONSIDER EVENTS IN ECHIZEN...

SFX. Throb Throb Throb throb
WE DO NOT HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME, YOU OLD TANUKI!!
THIS PRICK...!
...ONE SURELY CANNOT MEASURE THE LORD BY COMMONER'S STANDARDS.
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES...
...THEN I PRESENT TO YOU THIS MAN SITTING BEHIND US...
ODA'S HEAD CHEF, KEN!
IF YOU WOULD PERMIT US TO SHOW YOU A DISPLAY OF THE ODA CLAN'S POWER...


Uh... Huh?
A CHEF?

EVEN CHEFS...
...OF THE ODA CLAN ARE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEAGUE FROM ALL OTHERS.


SFX Smack
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!


HORI-DONO...
THIS MAN CAN PREPARE ANY MEAL YOU CAN THINK OF...
...AND TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS ON EARTH.
PLEASE REQUEST ANYTHING YOU FANCY.

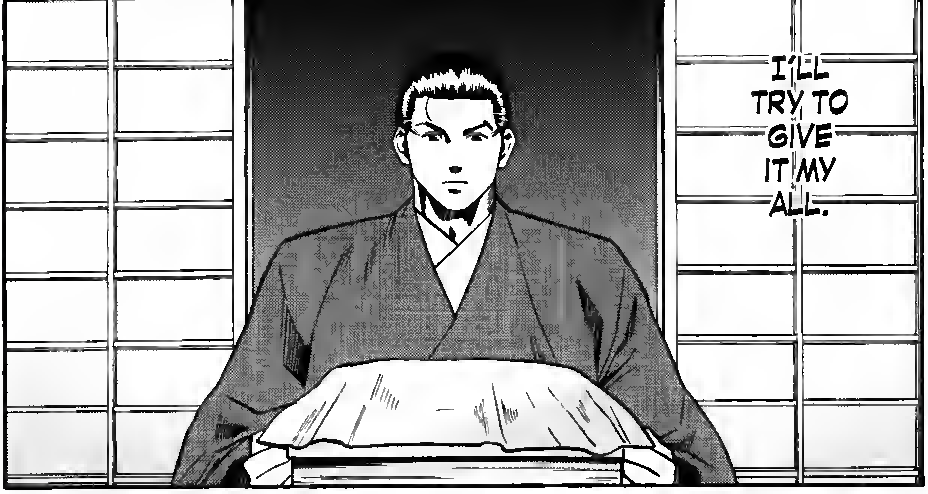
DO NOT THINK YOU CAN TAKE US SO LIGHTLY!
THEY ARE TRYING TO CURRY OUR LORD'S FAVOR WITH FOOD NOW...
Eh...
I CAN ASK FOR ANY KIND OF DISH I WANT...?
THE LORD DISLIKES FISH AS HE FINDS THE BONES TO BE A BOTHER.
BUT I CAN USE THIS TO MY ADVANTAGE...
IN LIGHT OF THAT, WE REQUEST A WHOLE FISH PREPARED WITHOUT ANY BONES.

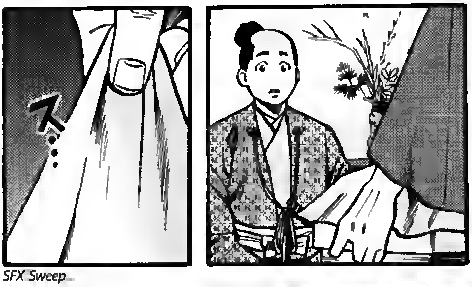
SFX Halt
ス
THIS WAS A CHALLENGE THAT YOU YOURSELVES SUGGESTED...
...SO IF THERE IS EVEN A SINGLE BONE TO BE FOUND...
A FISH WITHOUT BONES ...?!
SFX Woosh
ス
...THEN YOUR HEADS WILL ROLL...
...AND I SHALL PRESENT THEM TO AZAI NOBUMASA-DONO.
SFX Slide
スー
SFX Shock
WHAT?!

Uck ...!
SO YOU JUST WANT A WHOLE FISH WITHOUT BONES, RIGHT?
THAT'S FAIRLY STANDARD.
PLEASE WAIT WHILE I GO PREPARE IT.

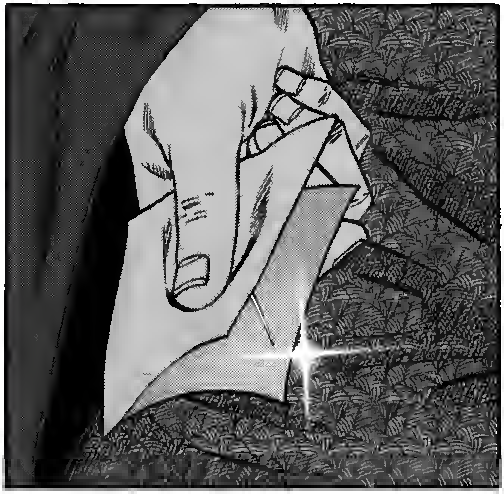
SFX: Tighten
BUT, BOSS...
THE BONES IN THE BODY ARE ONE THING...
...BUT THE HEAD AND TAIL ARE FILLED WITH BONES TOO, YOU KNOW?
IT'S A TOOL CALLED TWEEZERS.
AH! THIS IS AMAZING, IT'S SO EASY TO REMOVE THE BONES WITH IT!
MAKE? WITH THE TAIL AND HEAD, YOU MEAN?
WHAT CAN YOU MAKE TO GET AROUND THAT?

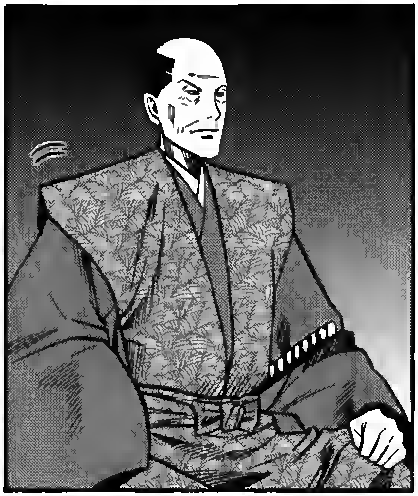
A DISH THAT GIVES COURAGE...
KEN, SOMETHING THAT WILL GIVE LORD HORI MORE COURAGE...
THAT IS THE KIND OF FOOD WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO MAKE.
...NO SUCH THING.
THERE'S...
COURAGE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU GET FROM OTHERS, BUT RATHER SOMETHING YOU BRING OUT FROM WITHIN...
HE HAS TO BECOME AWARE OF THAT HIMSELF.





SFX Sweep...

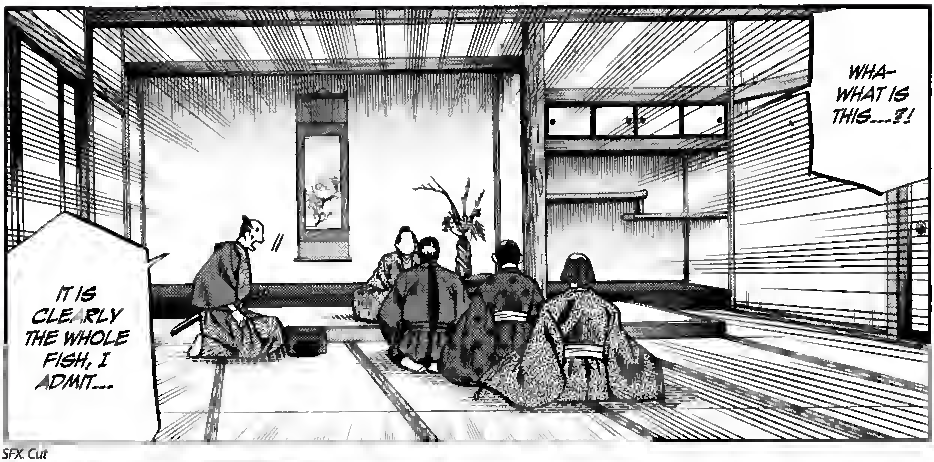




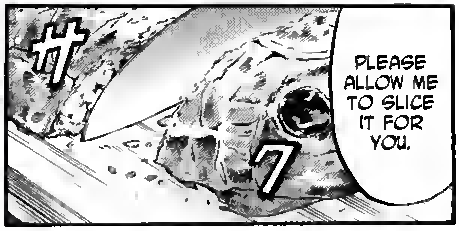
Chapter 22

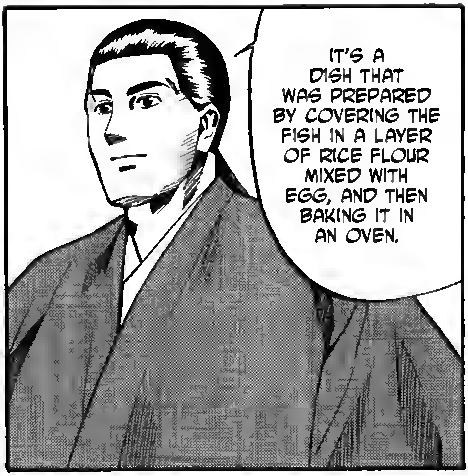
ス。
THE SPECIALTY OF FERNAND POINT, A STAR OF THE FRENCH COOKING WORLD...
...THE EN CRÔUTE STYLE.

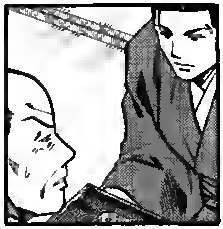
Chapter 22 A Full-Grown Man

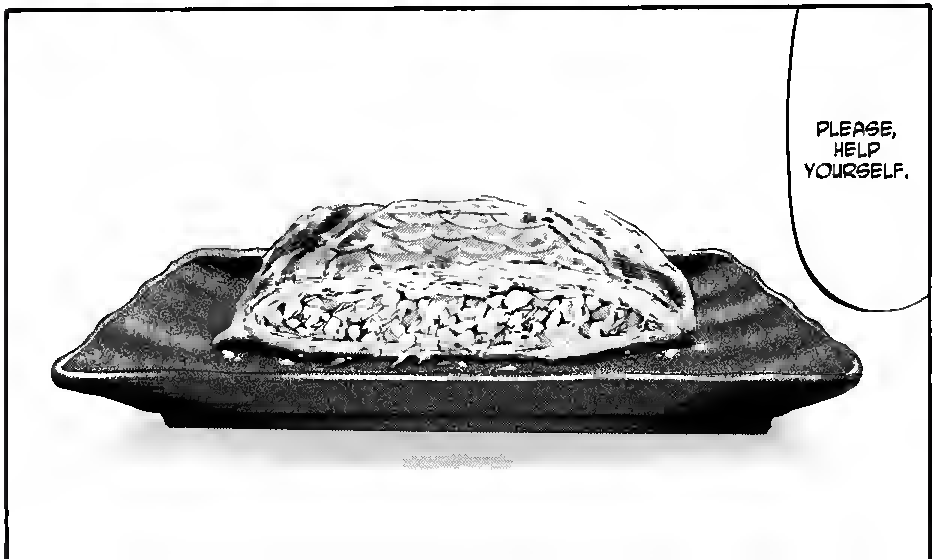

WHA- WHAT IS THIS....?!
IT IS CLEARLY THE WHOLE FISH, I ADMIT...

SFX: Cut

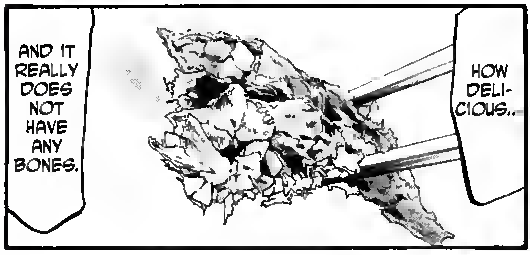

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SLICE IT FOR YOU.


IT'S A DISH THAT WAS PREPARED BY COVERING THE FISH IN A LAYER OF RICE FLOUR MIXED WITH EGG, AND THEN BAKING IT IN AN OVEN.

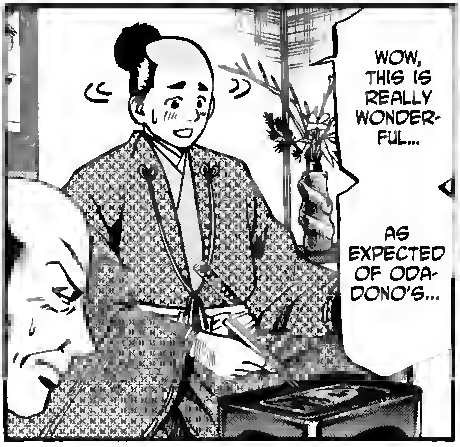


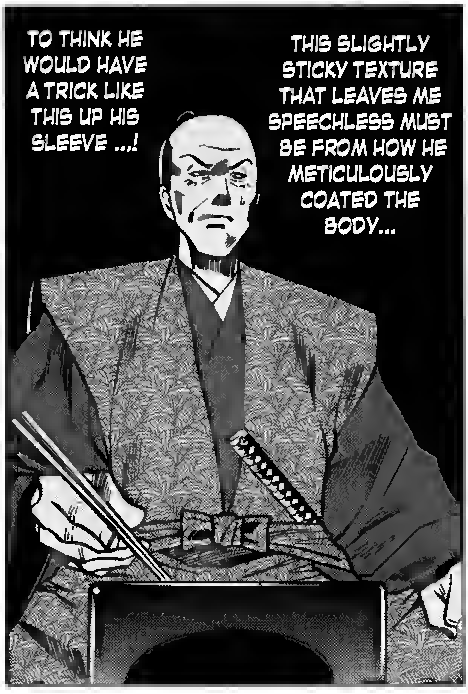

PLEASE, HELP YOURSELF.

HOW—!

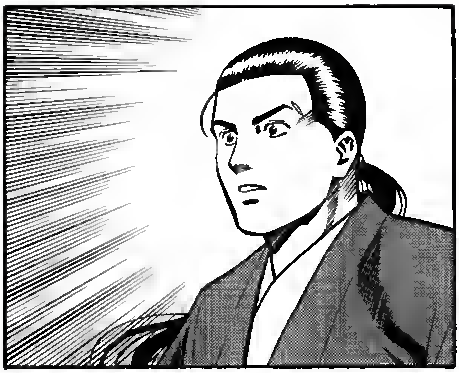

AND IT REALLY DOES NOT HAVE ANY BONES.
HOW DELI-CIOUS..

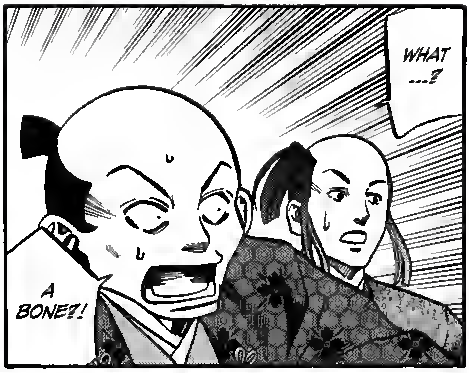
HOW DOES IT SUIT YOUR TASTES, HORI-DONO?

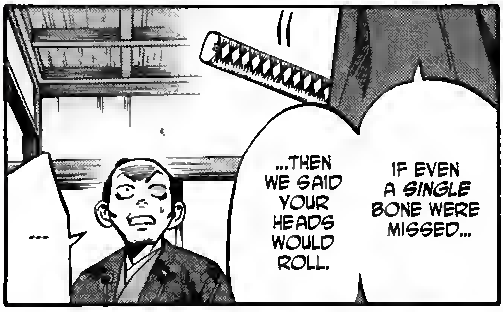

WOW, THIS IS REALLY WONDER-FUL...
AS EXPECTED OF ODA-DONO'S...


TO THINK HE WOULD HAVE A TRICK LIKE THIS UP HIS SLEEVE ...!
THIS SLIGHTLY STICKY TEXTURE THAT LEAVES ME SPEECHLESS MUST BE FROM HOW HE METICULOUSLY COATED THE BODY...

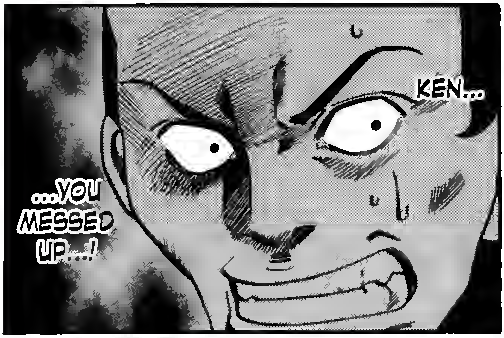
OF COURSE, IT IS ONLY NATURAL! AFTER ALL....
OUCH!
I SHALL HAVE TO DO IT, AFTER ALL...
FOR A TRICK, ANOTHER TRICK...!

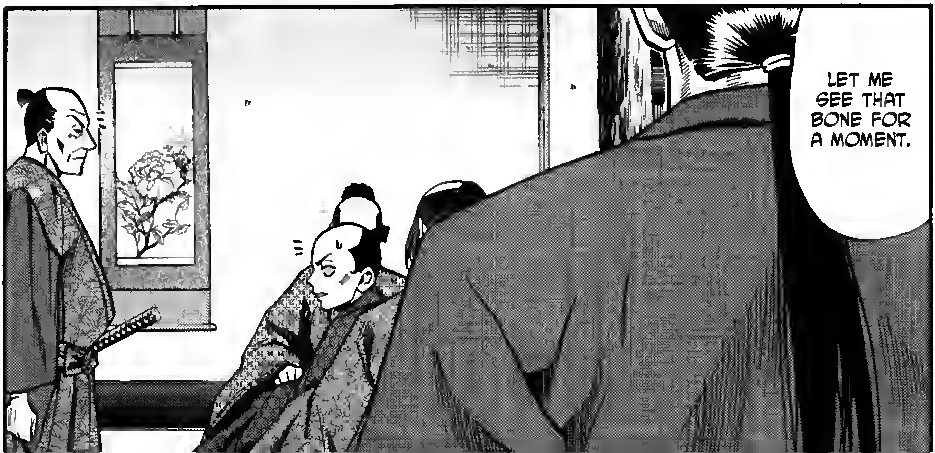



WHAT ---?
A BONE?!

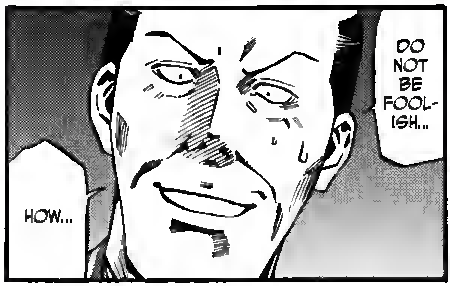

...
...THEN WE SAID YOUR HEADS WOULD ROLL.
IF EVEN A SINGLE BONE WERE MISSED...

WE WERE FORTUNATE IT WAS NOT IN THE LORD'S SERVING.
KINOSHITA-DONO, I HOPE YOU RECALL THE DEAL...


KEN...
...YOU MESSED UP...!


LET ME SEE THAT BONE FOR A MOMENT.

SO THIS IS ALL ODA'S CHEF AMOUNTS TO, IS IT?
WHAT A POOR LOSER...
SFX Swip
PLEASE, MY LORD.
THE SEA BREAM I PREPARED IS A SALT WATER FISH...
BUT THIS BONE IS FROM A FRESH WATER FISH.


DO NOT BE FOOL-ISH...
HOW...

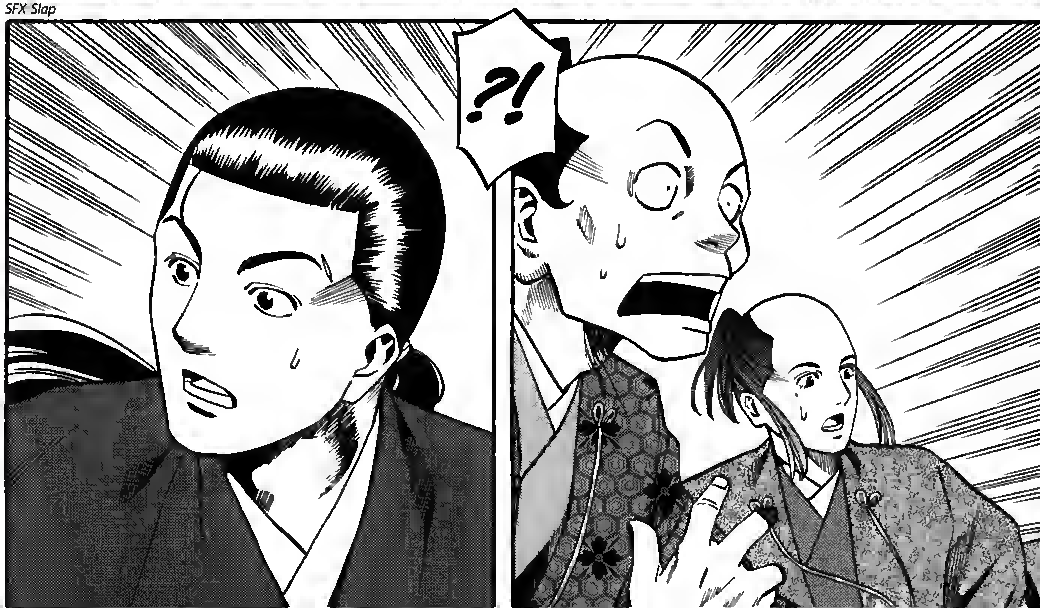
WHA...
WHAT'S THAT?!

SFX Shock

THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
IT'S EVIDENT FROM THE SHAPE OF THE BONE.

NO...
BUT...
HOW...
THEN...
DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?
IT IS TRUE THAT OUMI IS A LANDLOCKED REGION AND HAS MANY LAKES, SO IT WOULD NOT BE TOO SURPRISING IF THE BONE THAT WAS PREPARED WAS FROM A LAKE FISH...!
I SEE! DAMN HIGUCHI! SO HE MADE ONE OF THE HOUSE STAFF PREPARE A FISH BONE FOR HIM!
Ah...
SFX Clock
...
...
Ah...
SFX Gasp
HIGUCHI...
THIS... WRETCHED...!
カチャ

SFX: Slap



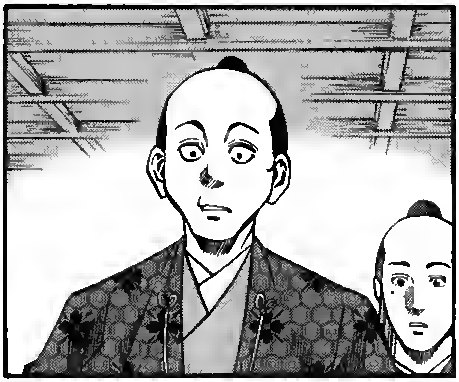
YOU FOOL!
HOW DARE YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
SFX Thud
ドロ
KINO-SHITA-DONO!
YES?!
MY... LORD...
SFX Bow
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY!

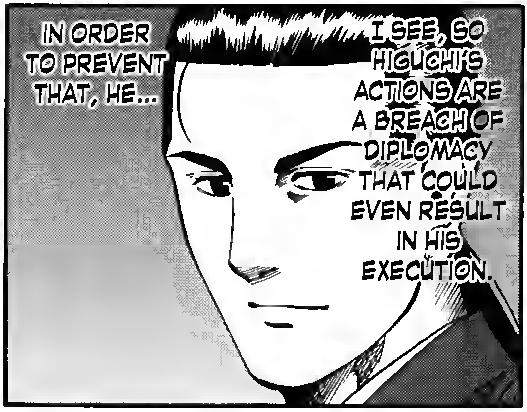
I, HORI HIDEMURA, AM LORD OF THIS CASTLE...

PLEASE LEAVE THIS AFFAIR TO ME TO DEAL WITH...
...AND RESTRAIN YOUR ANGER!

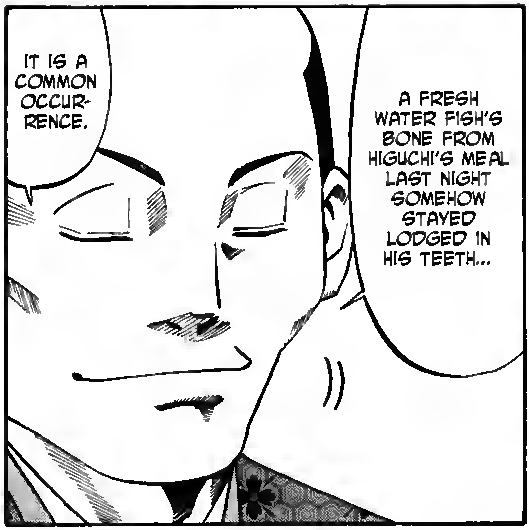
THE MISTAKES OF MY RETAINERS ...
...ARE ALSO MISTAKES FOR WHICH I MUST TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY!

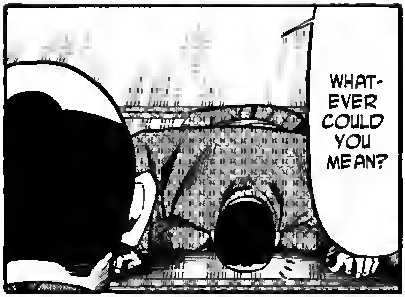
PLEASE...
I BEG YOU!!

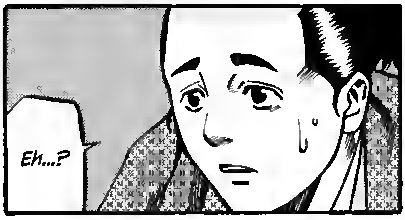



IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAT, HE...
I SEE, SO HIGUCHI'S ACTIONS ARE A BREACH OF DIPLOMACY THAT COULD EVEN RESULT IN HIS EXECUTION.

HE WELL KNOWS WHEN HE SHOULD BRING OUT HIS COURAGE.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...


IT IS A COMMON OCCURRENCE.
A FRESH WATER FISH'S BONE FROM HIGUCHI'S MEAL LAST NIGHT SOMEHOW STAYED LODGED IN HIS TEETH...

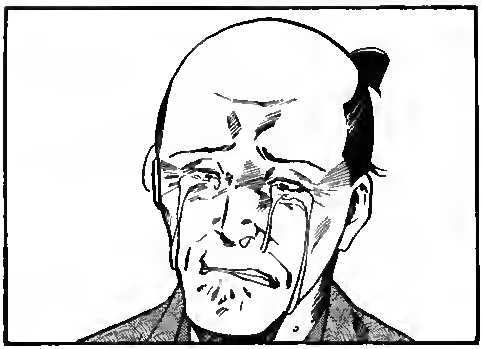

WHAT-EVER COULD YOU MEAN?


EH...?

KI-KINO-SHITA-DONO...

PLEASE LEND YOUR STRENGTH TO MY LORD ODA'S ARMY.
PLEASE, LET ME ASK YOU ONCE MORE, LORD HORI HIDEMURA-DONO...
スト
SFX Swip
BUT...
I AM ALSO A FULL-GROWN MAN.
HIGUCHI... I KNOW THAT YOU OFTEN CONSIDER ME TOO YOUNG AND IN NEED OF YOUR PROTECTION AND WISDOM...

IN THIS ERA'S UPHEAVALS...
...I WOULD LIKE TO THROW IN MY LOT WITH ODA-DONO!



WILL YOU STILL FOLLOW ME...
HIGUCHI?

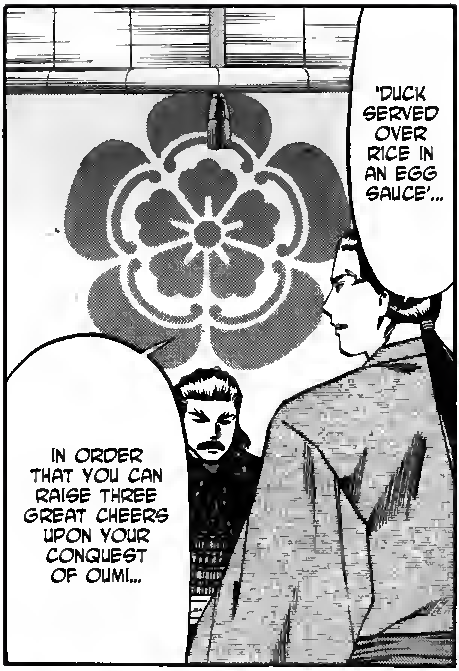
WHEREVER YOU LEAD...
...I SHALL FOLLOW YOU...!

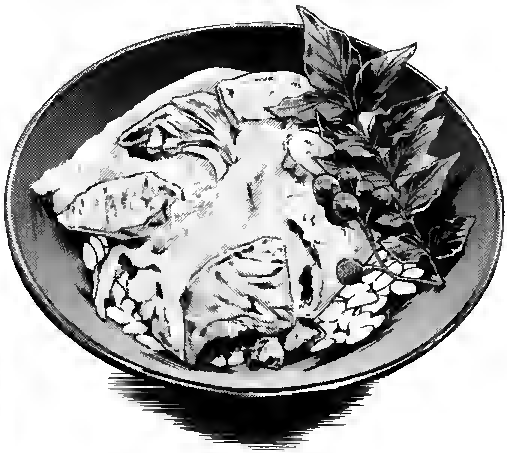
Whoa.
I REALLY DID NOT KNOW HOW THAT WOULD END UP...
OUR MISSION WAS COMPLETED FLAWLESSLY.
IT WAS A LIE.
TO THINK THAT YOU COULD TELL FISH BONES APART...
BUT I AM REALLY IN AWE OF YOUR ENCYCLOPEDIC KNOWLEDGE...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD KNOW...
...WHETHER A SMALL BONE LIKE THAT CAME FROM A FRESH WATER OR SALT WATER FISH.
Huh?

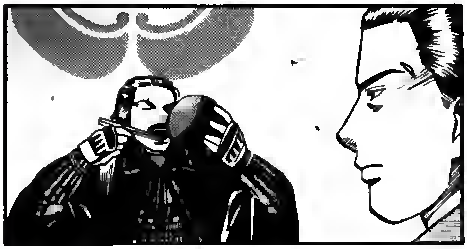
WE CHEFS HAVE OUR SENSE OF PRIDE TOO
THERE WASN'T A SINGLE BONE LEFT IN THAT FISH!
YOU... YOU JUST MADE A WILD GUESS?!
BOSS...
SFX: Sniff...
HAHAHA! YOU HAVE BECOME A FINE MEMBER OF ODA'S ARMY YOURSELF, HAVEN'T YOU!
He... Hehe...
SFX: Slap

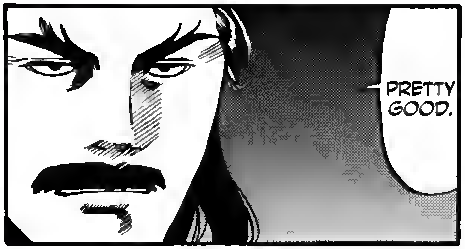
IF THE RETREAT OF KANEGASAKI HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE...
THEN THAT WAR WILL NOW BE STARTING...
KEN...
MAKE ME A MEAL.

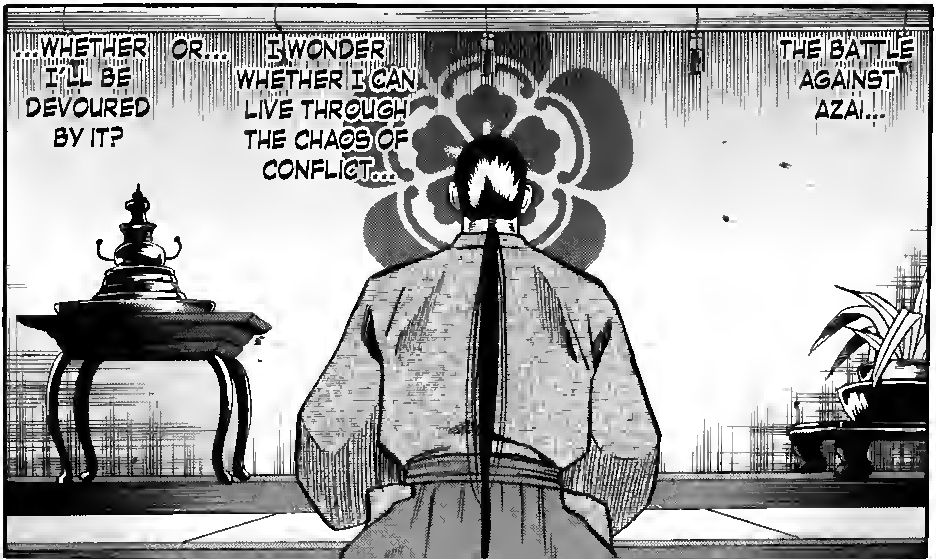
*T/N: The words in this phrase have double meanings in Japanese. "Three cheers" can mean pepper "conquest" can mean bird/duck, and "Oumi" can mean egg

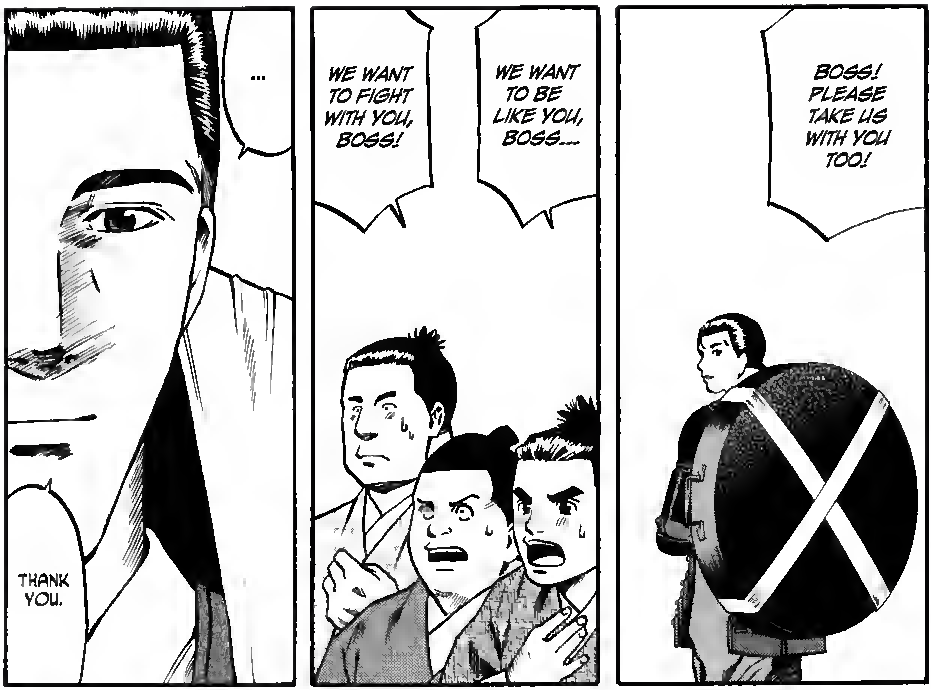










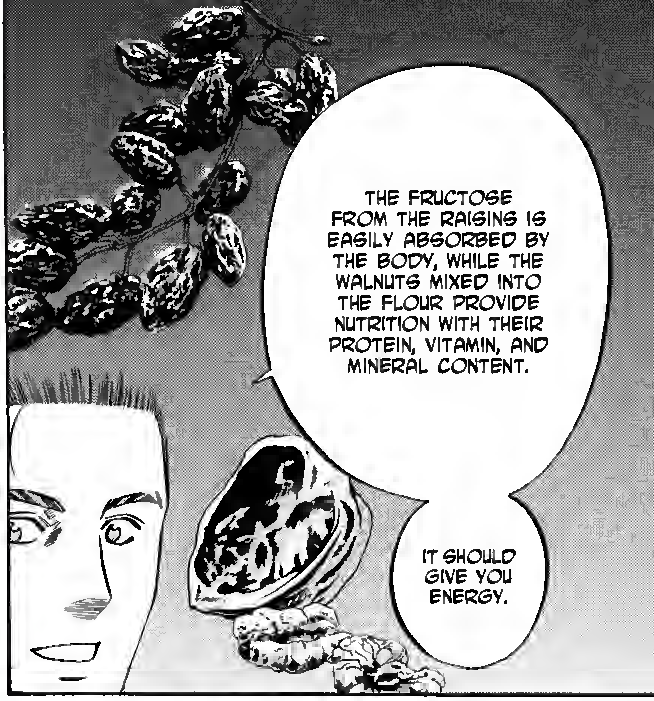


Chapter 23 An Eye for An Eye

SFX: Stomp Stomp
IN ORDER TO SUBJUGATE AZAI NAGAMASA, HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO BETRAYED HIM AND BECAME HIS ENEMY...
JUNE 19TH OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE GENKI (1570)
...NOBUNAGA LAUNCHED AN ATTACK AGAINST OUMI.

Phoo...
Phew...
I MADE SOME RATIONS WITH QUICK RESTORATIVE PROPERTIES.
Haa-aaa...
WHAT IS THAT...?
IT'S A BAKED SWEET— A COOKIE WITH RAISINS AND WALNUTS.
PLEASE HAVE ONE.

NO... I AM FINE.
PLEASE DISTRIBUTE IT AMONG THE TROOPS THOUGH.

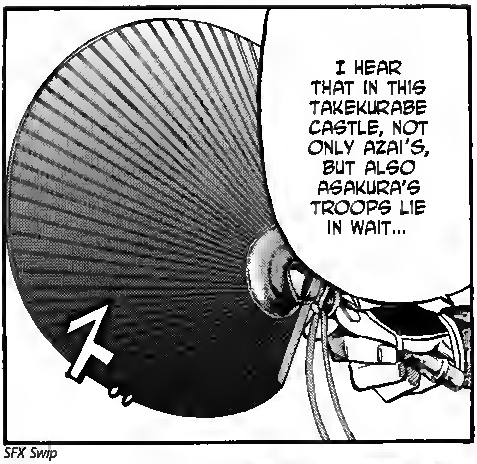

THE FRUCTOSE FROM THE RAISING IS EASILY ABSORBED BY THE BODY, WHILE THE WALNUTS MIXED INTO THE FLOUR PROVIDE NUTRITION WITH THEIR PROTEIN, VITAMIN, AND MINERAL CONTENT.
IT SHOULD GIVE YOU ENERGY.

WELL, THERE IS SOMETHING WEIGHING ON MY MIND, YOU SEE.
SO HOW COME YOU LOOK SO DOWN?

SHE WAS THE ONE WHO SENT THE SWEETFISH AT KANEGASAKI.
OICHI...

IT IS OICHI-SAMA, THE LORD'S SISTER.

I FEAR FOR OICHI-SAMA'S LIFE...
BUT NOW, OUR LORD IS PLANNING TO TAKE AZAI'S HEAD...
SHE IS ALSO SO DUTIFUL THAT SHE NEVER SHOWED A SOUR FACE WHEN SHE LEFT TO WED AZAI NAGAMASA ON OUR LORD'S ORDERS.
OICHI-SAMA IS A REAL BEAUTY...
AND SHE IS SO KIND-HEARTED AND THOUGHTFUL TOWARD HER BROTHER!
YEAH, ACCORDING TO HISTORY, OICHI...
HAAA...
I'M JUST AN OUTSIDER WHO'S BEEN MIXED UP IN THIS WARRING STATES PERIOD.
BUT WHAT CAN I HOPE TO DO WHILE KEEPING MY MOUTH SHUT?



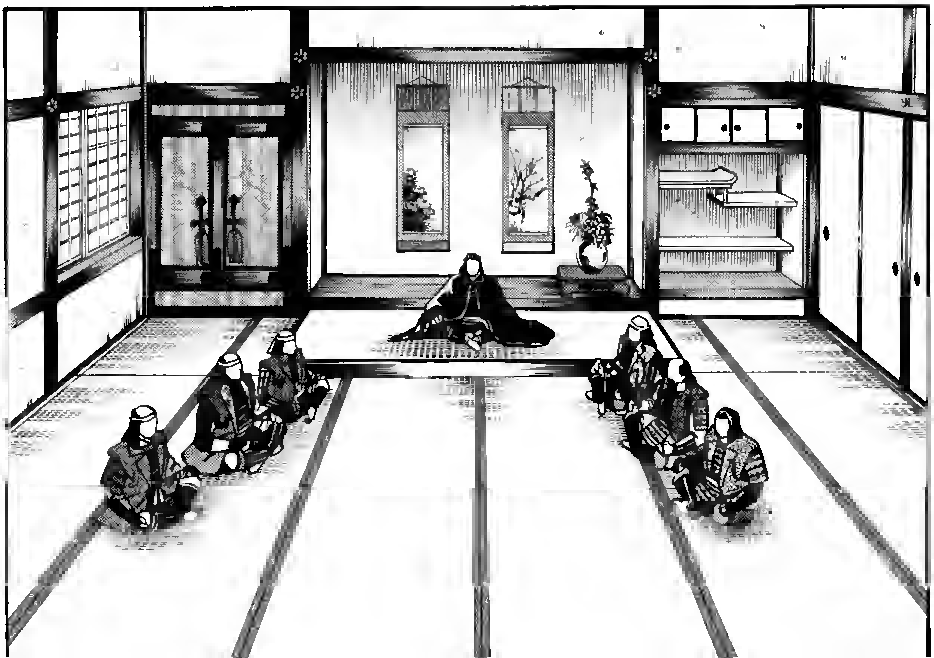
SFX Swip

SFX Roaaaam

THIS ROOM'S EMPTY TOO!
SFX Slam
SFX Slam
SFX Slam
WHAT A DISGRACEFUL BUNCH!
SO THE COWARDS RAN IN FEAR OF OUR ARMY...
SFX Thump
KEN! PREPARE A MEAL QUICKLY!
WE SHALL AWAIT KATSUIE AND YOSHINARI HERE!

IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WERE HERE UP TILL THIS MORNING.
THE POTS ARE STILL WARM...
SFX Clack
Phew... MAN AM I PARCHED!

KINSAN! DON'T DRINK THAT!
IT COULD BE A TRAP!
EH...
EH?!
WHOA!
UWAA-AAAH!
SFX: Clatter Clatter

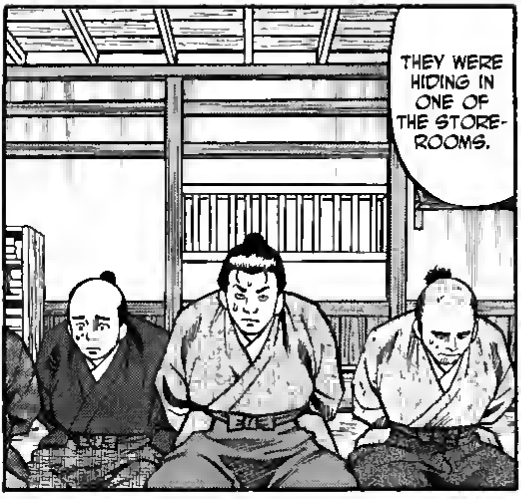


SFX. Tap Tap
WHAT IS TAKING SO LONG...? KEN, THAT FOOL... WHAT IS HE DOING!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
SFX. Tap Tap Tap
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR AGES!
WE HAD TO GO TO THE BASE OF THE HILL TO FETCH WATER.
I WON'T USE THE WATER LEFT IN THE KITCHEN'S EARTHEN-WARE JUGS.

Mmph.
WHAT?
CHAHAN--I MEAN, FRIED RICE WITH DRIED SHRIMP AND ONIONS.
THERE'S A LOT OF CALCIUM IN THE DRIED SHRIMP...
THE CALCIUM WILL HELP YOU THINK CLEARLY AND CALM YOUR FEELINGS TOO.
PLEASE...

SFX: Chew Chew
YOU SAY SUCH IMPUDENT THINGS, AS USUAL.
Hmph...
Oh...
Wah...
SFX: Slide
WHA--
WHAT WAS THAT?!

YOU CAUGHT THE AZAI AND ASAKURA'S OLD CHEFS?!


THEY WERE HIDING IN ONE OF THE STORE-ROOMS.

SO YOU ARE ONE OF ASAKURA'S CHEFS...
YOUR NAME?

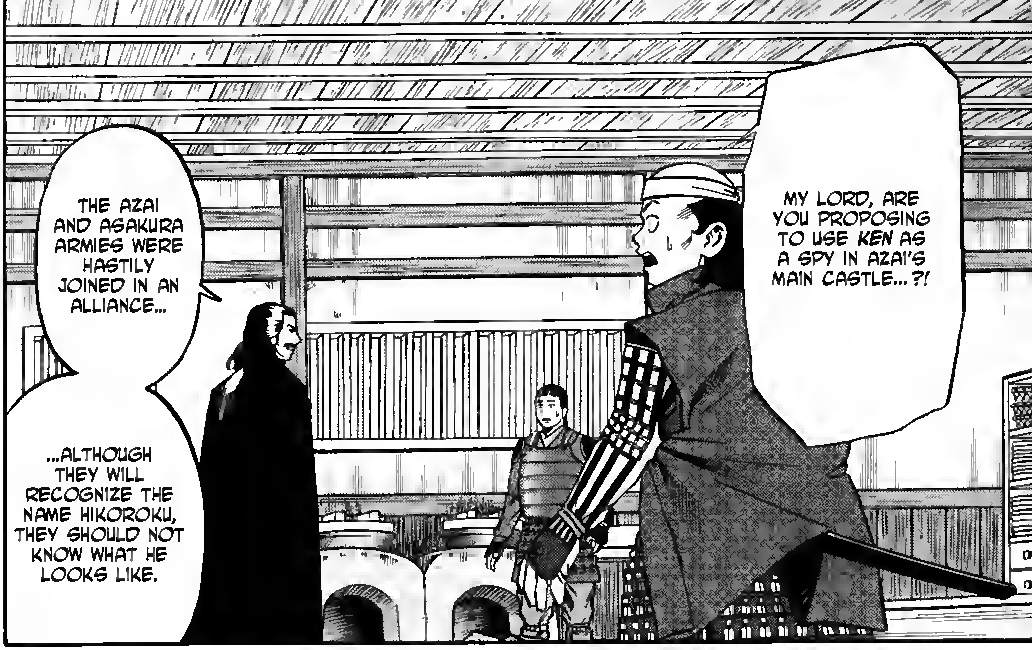
...
HIKO-ROKU...
CALL KAEDE.
YES, SIR...
HIKO-ROKU...
HAVE A DRINK.

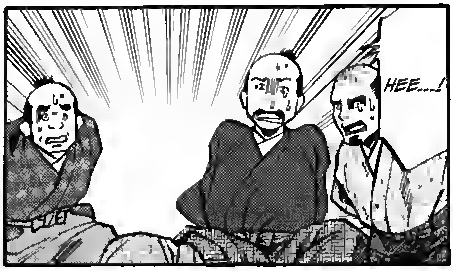
SFX. Yank
Ugh...
NO.... PLEASE....
SFX. Jerk
...
Gurg...
Mmph...
SFX. Puaah

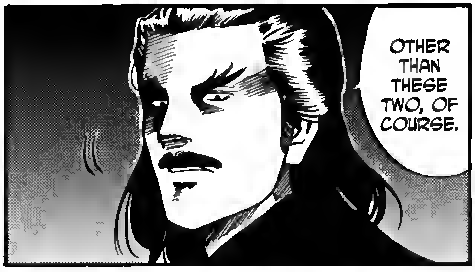
SFX. Stab

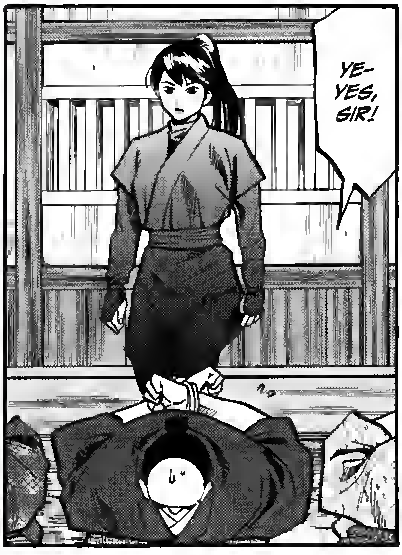
SFX. Thud

KAEDE WAS A FEMALE SPY, I THINK...
TO THINK SHE COULD KILL A MAN WITHOUT EVEN BATTING AN EYE...
HE-HEEE!
IT SEEMS THERE REALLY *WAS* POISON IN THAT JUG, DOES IT NOT, KEN?
YES, SIR...
?!
YOU WILL NOW GO TO ODANI CASTLE WITH THESE MEN AND INFILTRATE THEIR KITCHEN USING THE NAME HIKOROKU.

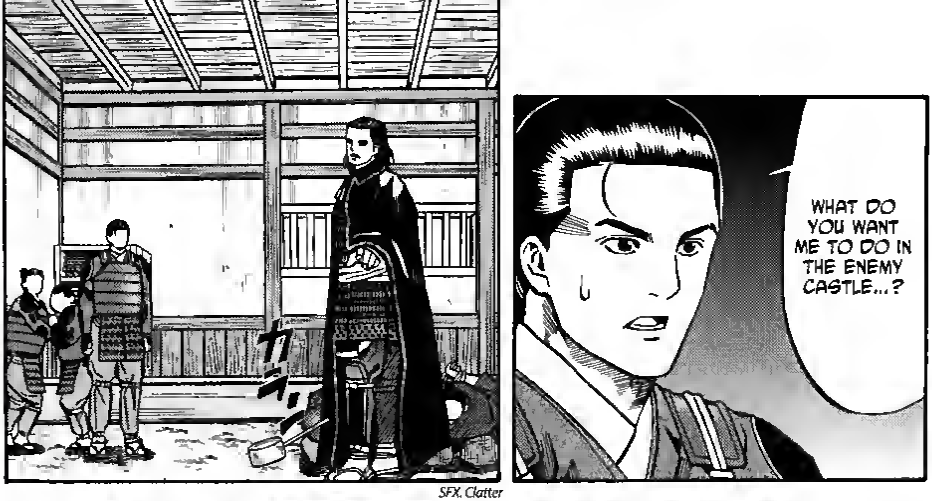

MY LORD, ARE YOU PROPOSING TO USE KEN AS A SPY IN AZAI'S MAIN CASTLE...?!
THE AZAI AND ASAKURA ARMIES WERE HASTILY JOINED IN AN ALLIANCE...
...ALTHOUGH THEY WILL RECOGNIZE THE NAME HIKOROKU, THEY SHOULD NOT KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.


HEE...!

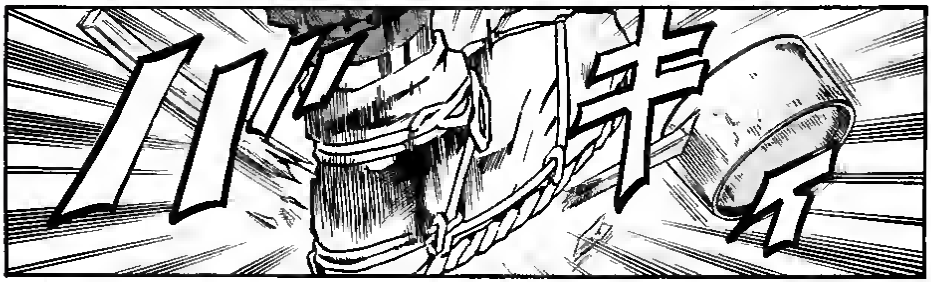

OTHER THAN THESE TWO, OF COURSE.


YE-YES, SIR!

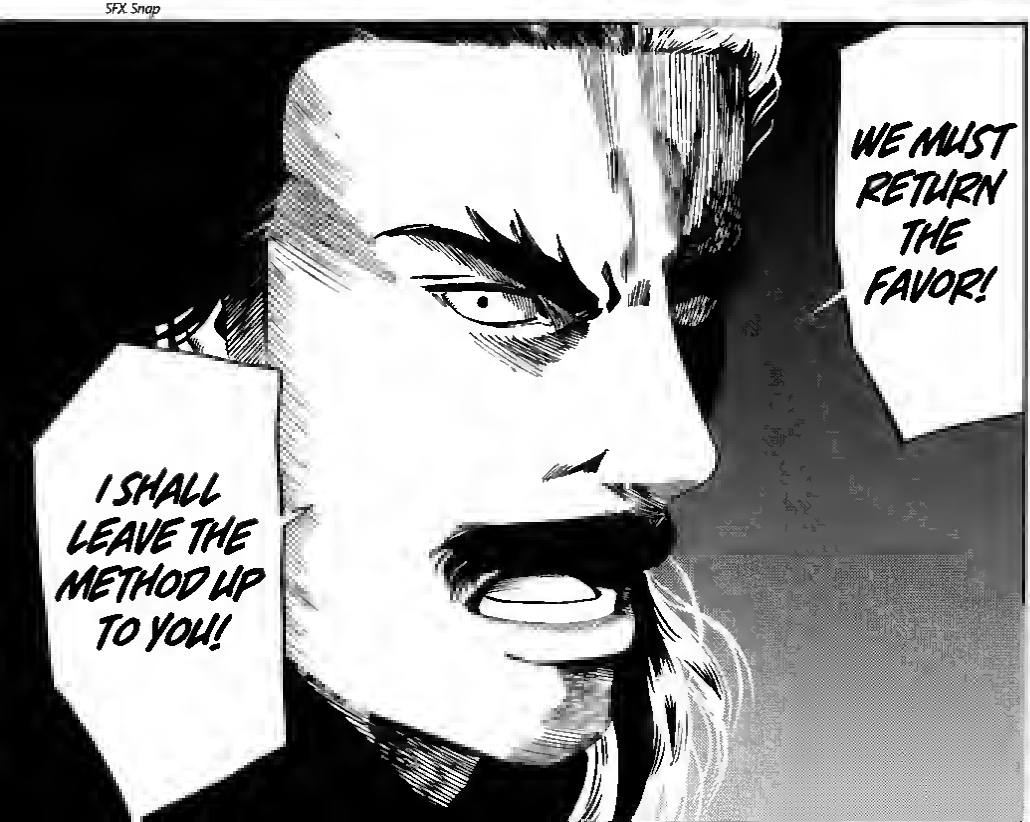
KAEDE, GO AND KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.
IF YOU MAKE ANY SUSPICIOUS MOVES, KNOW THAT YOU SHALL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS HIKOROKU!



SFX. Clatter



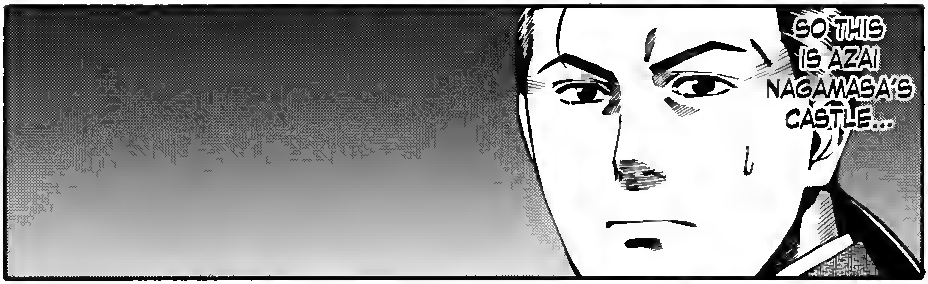
SFX. Snap



I AM COUNTING ON YOU!!
IS THE LORD PLANNING TO DO AWAY WITH KEN?!
POISON FOR POISON... IS IT?
BUT TO SPREAD POISON WITHIN THE ENEMY CASTLE...

Chapter 24 Infiltration of Odani Castle

THAT IS ODANI CASTLE...

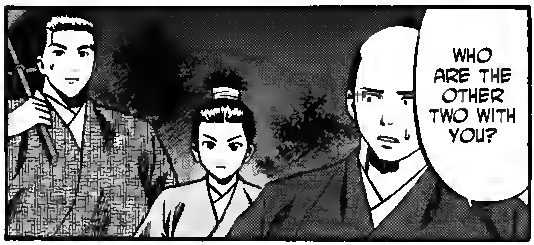

SO THIS IS AZAI NAGAMASA'S CASTLE...

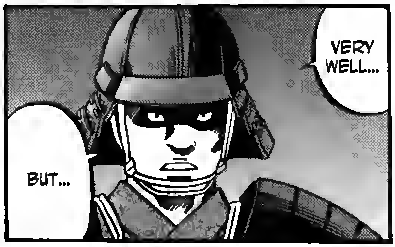
AN EYE FOR AN EYE, POISON FOR POISON...
SO HE MEANT FOR ME TO POISON THEM WITH MY FOOD...

WE MUST RETURN THE FAVOR!

LISTEN UP, YOU HAD BETTER ACT *EXACTLY* AS WE PLANNED.
IF YOU SAY EVEN ONE THING THAT HINDERS US, I WILL KILL YOU.
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, *HIKOROKU!*
...
MY NAME'S *KEN*, KAEDE-SAN!
Hmph!
LIKE I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT SOME CHEF'S NAME.

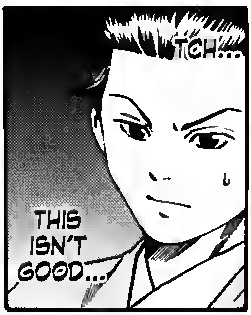
WE HAVE COME TO JOIN BACK UP WITH THE MAIN FORCE...
...AFTER BEING RELIEVED OF DUTY AT TAKE-KURABE CASTLE.


WHO ARE THE OTHER TWO WITH YOU?


VERY WELL...
BUT...

WHO DID YOU TWO WORK UNDER?

ス...


TCH...
THIS ISN'T GOOD...

SFX: Swip...

I SEE...
THESE TWO ARE CHEFS WHO CAME FROM LORD ASAKURA OF ECHIZEN'S ESTATE TO WORK WITH US.

KAGE-
TAKE,
IS IT?

Hii...!
HIKOROKU AND THIS ONE WORKED UNDER ASAKURA KAGE-TAKE-SAMA I HEAR!

SO YOSHIKAGE HAS NOT SET FOOT OUTSIDE OF ECHIZEN, BUT INSTEAD, HAS SENT HIS RELATIVE, KAGETAKE, AS HIS GENERAL IN COMMAND.
WE HAVE GOTTEN SOME INFORMATION.

SFX. Cmmk

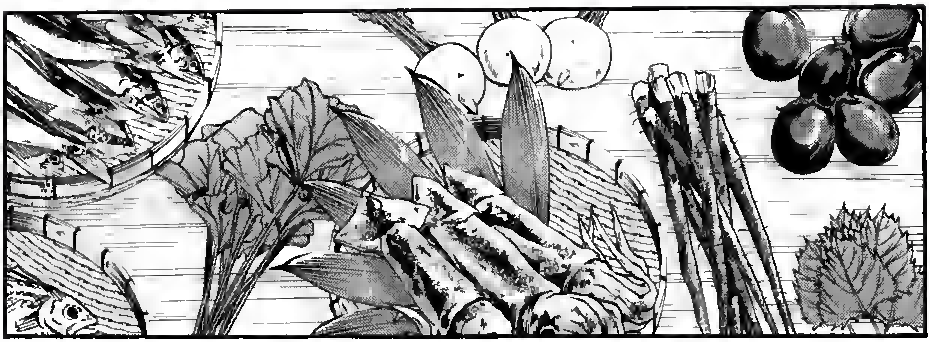
キリリリ
YOU WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE KITCHENS.

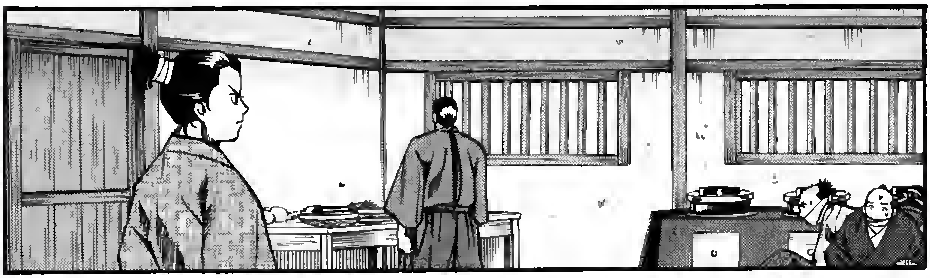
VERY WELL.
WE WERE SENT ALONG WITH KAGETAKE-SAMA'S WISHES THAT WE PREPARE A SUMPTUOUS MEAL FOR AZA! NAGA-MASA-DONO.

PLEASE RISE.
SO YOU ARE KAGETAKE-SAMA'S SERVANTS!
THANK YOU FOR MAKING SUCH AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY TO COME HERE.
I SHALL BE COUNTING ON YOU TO PREPARE A DELICIOUS MEAL.
THESE TWO ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR WORK!
AZAI NAGAMASA

SFX: Gasp
Hehehe ...!
NAGAMASA-SAMA, YOU KNOW THAT NOT EVEN CHACHA, LET ALONE OHATSU, CAN EAT ANYTHING YET.
PLEASE PREPARE...
...SOMETHING TASTY.

Mmm-mh...!
Man-ma...!
NOBUNAGA'S SISTER...
SO THIS PERSON IS OICHI...
HOW COULD I EVER POISON THEM...?!
THESE FINE PEOPLE...
...
I CAN'T DO IT...





...HE'S EVEN PREPARED TO SACRIFICE HIS SISTER AND NIECES.
SO JUST TO GET BACK AT HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, WHO BETRAYED HIM...

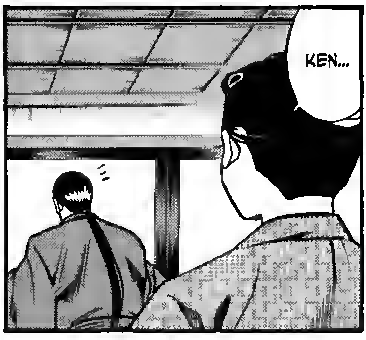
WE MUST RETURN THE FAVOR!

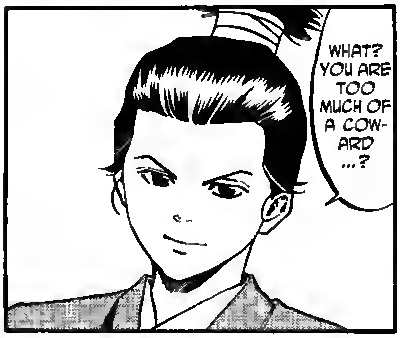
IS TELLING ME TO DO...?!
IS THAT WHAT THAT MAN...
7"
SFX Rap
THAT TIME, WHAT WAS IT THAT NOBUNAGA SAID EXACTLY...?
WAIT...

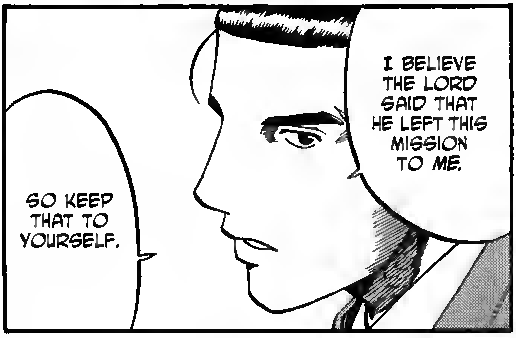
WE MUST RETURN THE FAVOR!
SFX Clack
I SEE...
BUT....
SFX. Swip
...EVEN IF I ESCAPE THIS CASTLE WITH MY LIFE, NOBUNAGA WILL HAVE ME EXECUTED.
IF I'M WRONG, THEN...

I WANT TO BELIEVE...
...NOT IN THE PERSON FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS...
...BUT IN THE MAN I KNOW.

USE THIS...
THIS COULD KILL *TEN* GROWN MEN.


KEN...

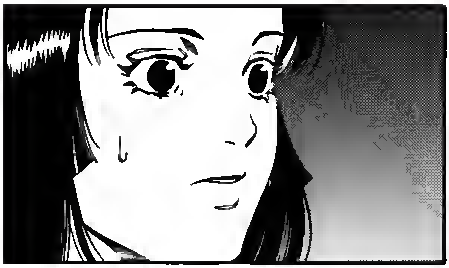

WHAT? YOU ARE TOO MUCH OF A COWARD ...?

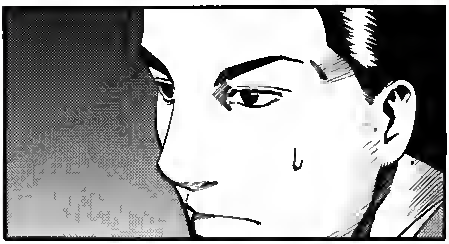

I BELIEVE THE LORD SAID THAT HE LEFT THIS MISSION TO *ME*.
SO KEEP THAT TO YOURSELF.

SFX. Yank
THEN I WILL DO IT FOR YOU BEFORE WE SERVE IT.
SFX. Swip...
SFX. Struggle Struggle
WHAT STRENGTH...!
THE KITCHEN IS MY BATTLE-FIELD.
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO ACT OUT OF LINE.
UGH!
WHA...?!
SFX. Woosh

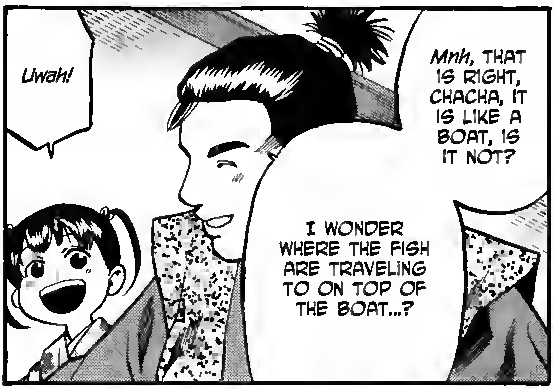
FRIED SWEETFISH IN BAMBOO LEAF WITH RASPBERRY SAUCE

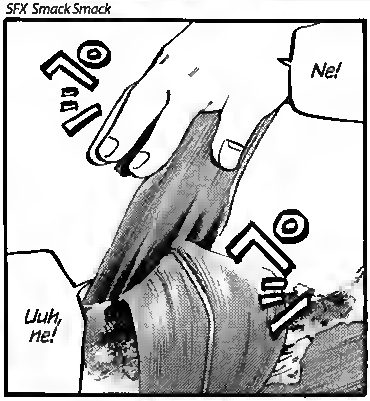
...
SWEET-FISH...?
OOH... THIS IS BEAUTI-FUL...!
Mmmh, THE MIXING OF THE BITTER SWEETFISH WITH THE SWEET AND SOUR RASP-BERRY...
...MAKES A WONDERFUL COMBINATION!
CAN YOU CATCH SWEETFISH IN ECHIZEN TOO?
CHEF...





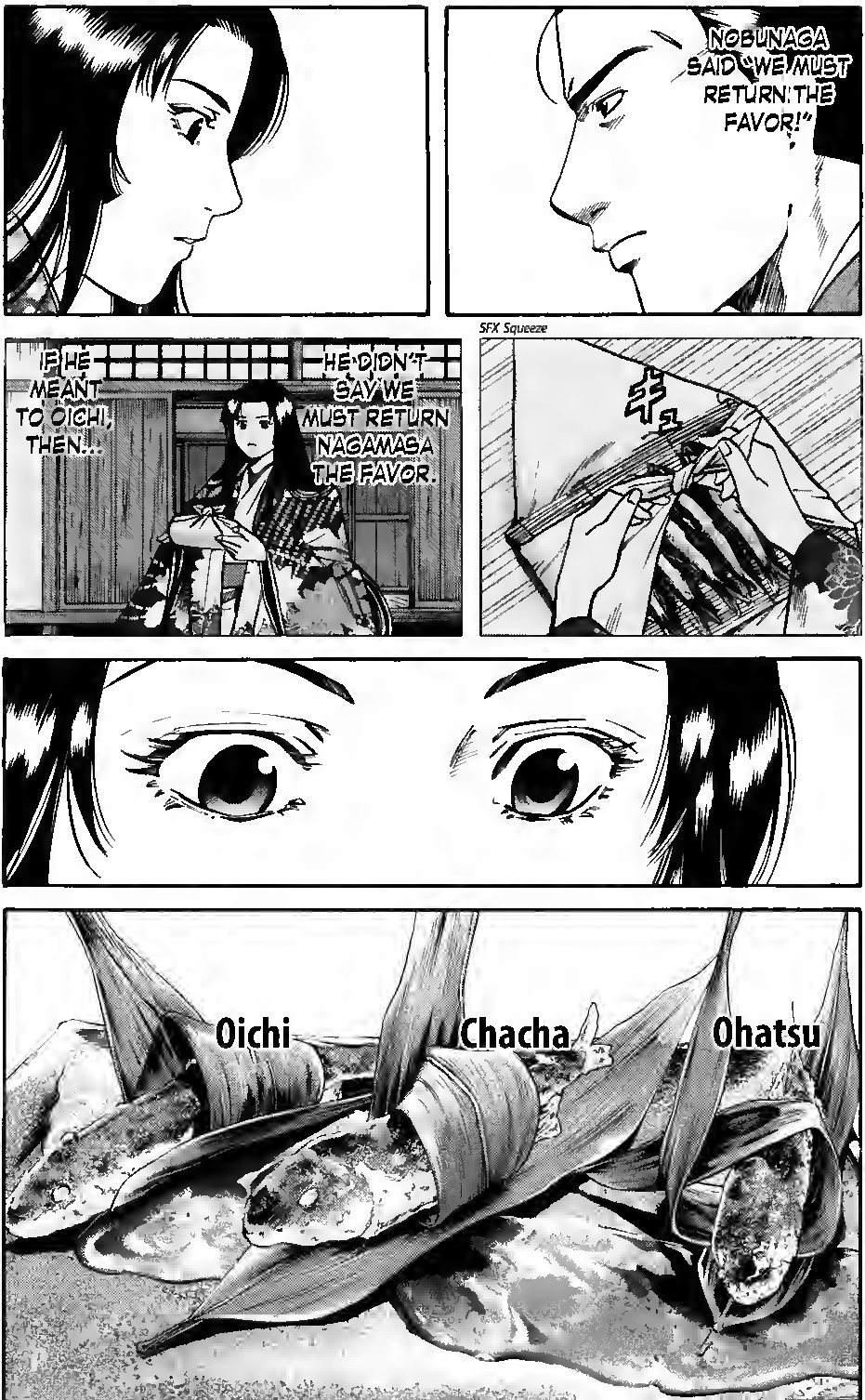
YES...


Uwah!
Mmh, THAT IS RIGHT, CHACHA, IT IS LIKE A BOAT, IS IT NOT?
I WONDER WHERE THE FISH ARE TRAVELING TO ON TOP OF THE BOAT...?

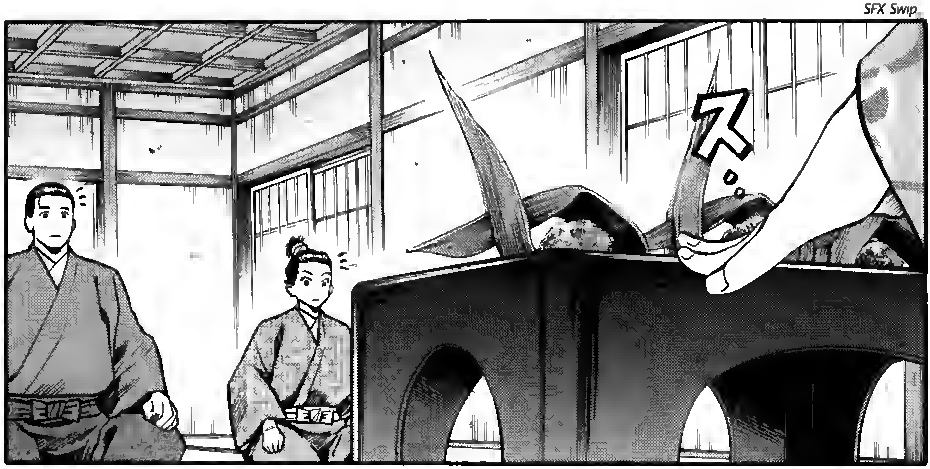

SFX Smack Smack
Ne!
Uuh, ne!

DICHI IS NOT TOUCHING HER FOOD... DID SHE NOTICE SOMETHING WAS UP...?

FROM HERE AT BIWA LAKE TO THE SEA...
THREE SWEETFISH...


NOBUNAGA SAID "WE MUST RETURN THE FAVOR!"
HE DIDN'T SAY WE MUST RETURN NAGAMASA THE FAVOR.
IF HE MEANT TO OICHI, THEN...
SFX Squeeze
Oichi
Chacha
Ohatsu

RUN AWAY, OICHI!
AND COME BACK TO ME!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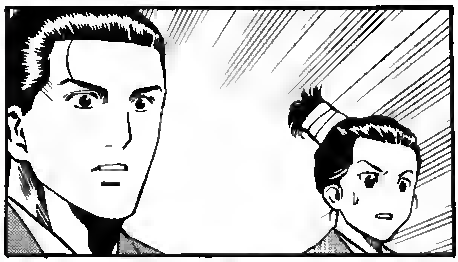
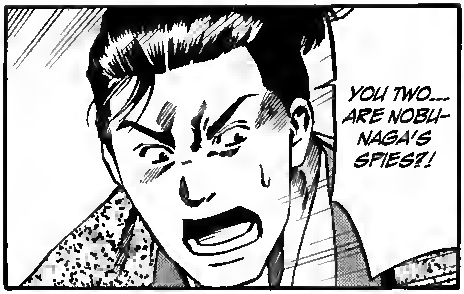
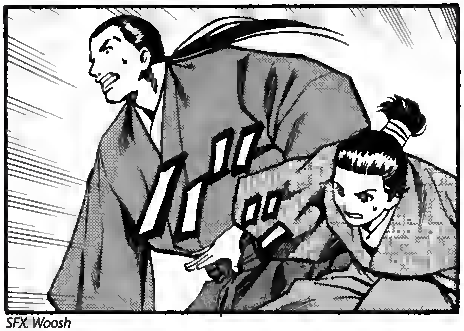


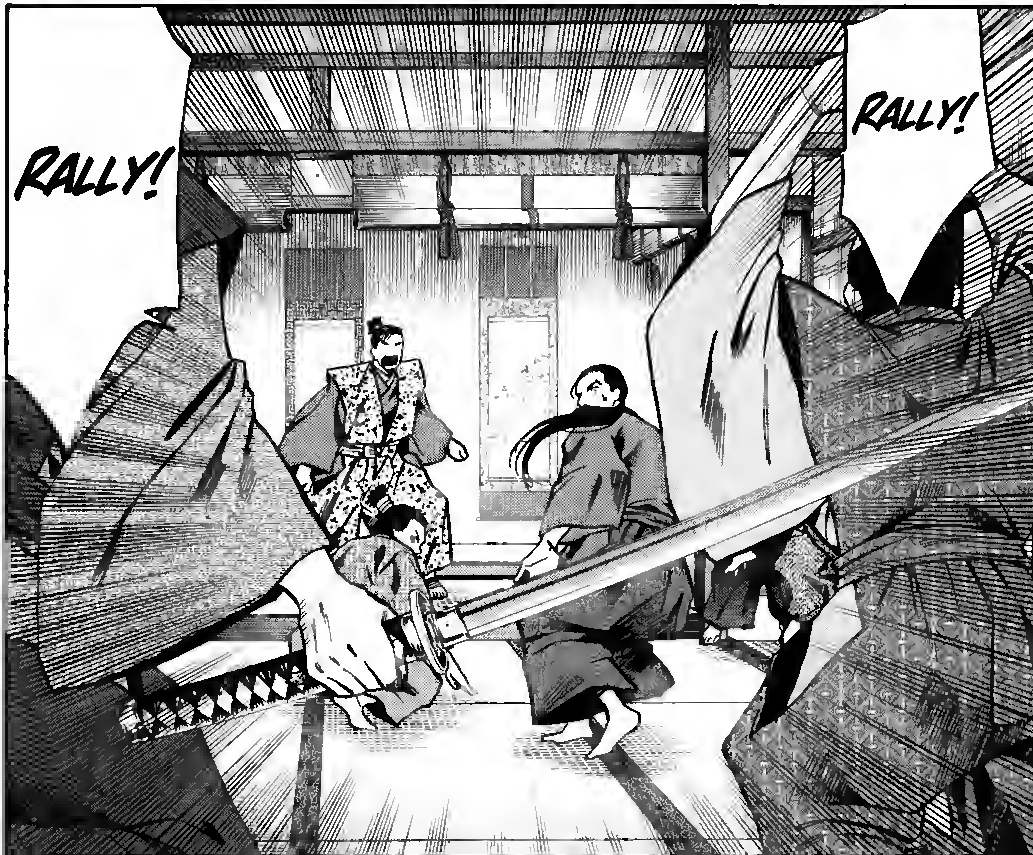
CHEFS...
THANK YOU FOR COMMUNI-CATING MY BROTHER'S FEELINGS TO ME.

BUT I, OICHI, SHALL NOT FLEE BY BOAT.
I SHALL NOT MOVE EVEN ONE STEP FROM THIS CASTLE!

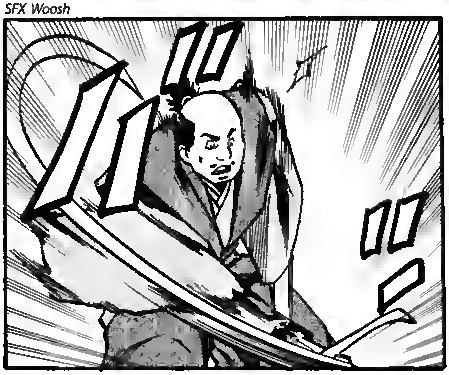




SFX: Woosh



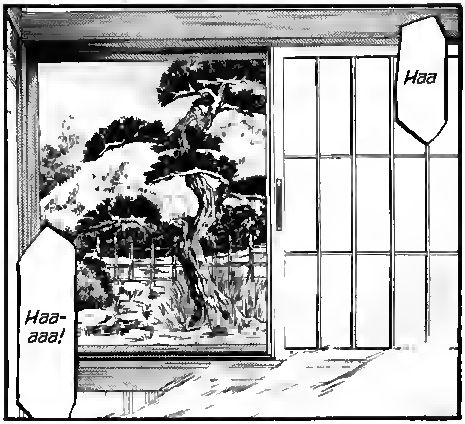
SFX Woosh



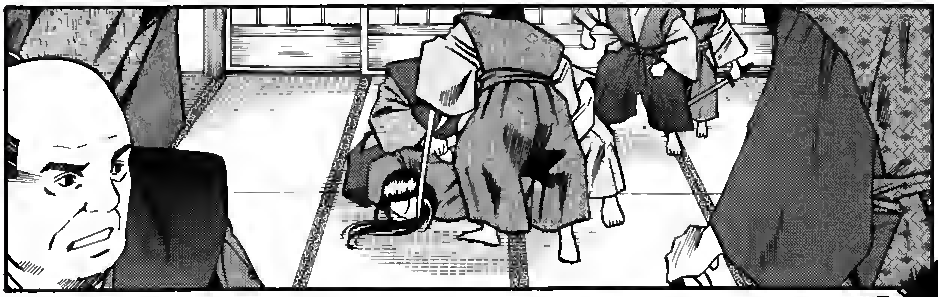
SFX Drop

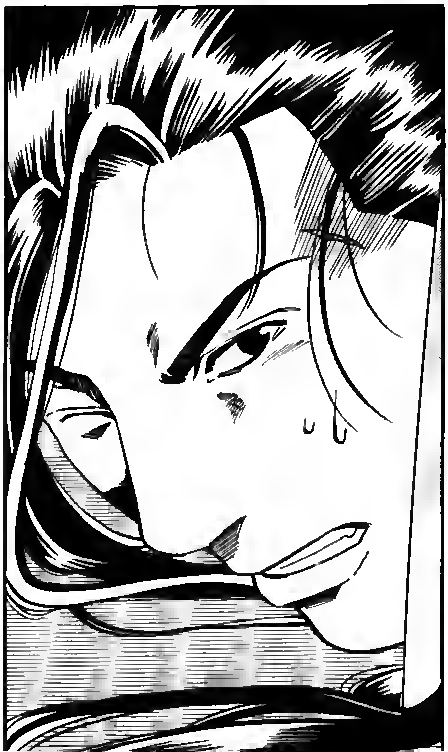
Chapter 25 All He Amounted To

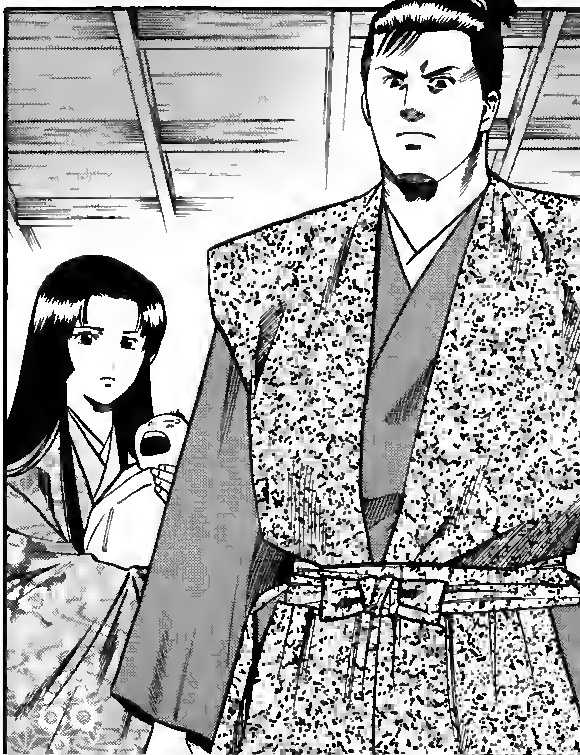
スカ
Uwa-aah...
Uwa-aah...
<Cough>
<Cough>
WE ARE FINE, NAGA-MASA-SAMA.
CHACHA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
OICHI ---!
OICHI ...!
I WILL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE, NAGAMASA-SAMA.


Haa
Haa-aaa!

~Cough~
Oofoof



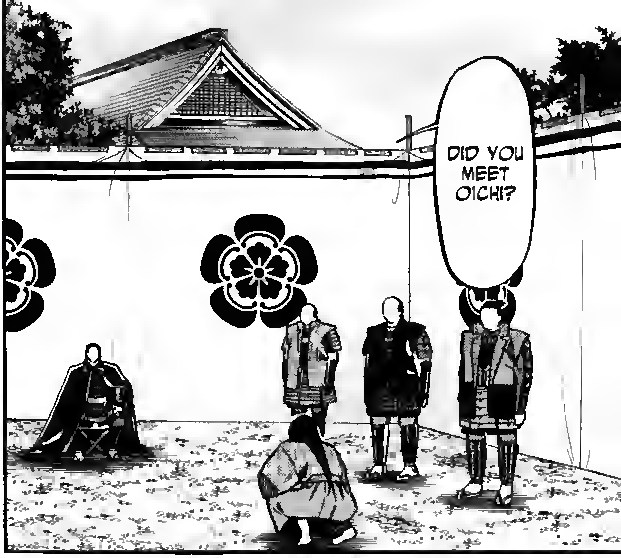




I WOULD ADVISE ATTACKING NOW, BEFORE HIS FORCES ARRIVE.
KAGETAKE IS ASAKURA'S GENERAL IN COMMAND.

THE LEADERS OF THE AZAI CLAN HAVE ALL LEFT THEIR MANSIONS ALREADY AND HAVE GONE UP THE HILL TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE CASTLE.
THE CASTLE MANOR IS LOCATED AT THE HILL'S PEAK AND IS HEAVILY DEFENDED.

SHE SAID... SHE WOULD NOT TAKE A SINGLE STEP FROM NAGAMASA'S SIDE...


DID YOU MEET OICHI?

Hehe-he...

SFX Woosh

YES, SIR!

YOU HAVE BROUGHT WONDERFUL NEWS. WITH THIS, I CAN ATTACK WITHOUT HESITATION.
KAEDE, YOU MAY LEAVE.

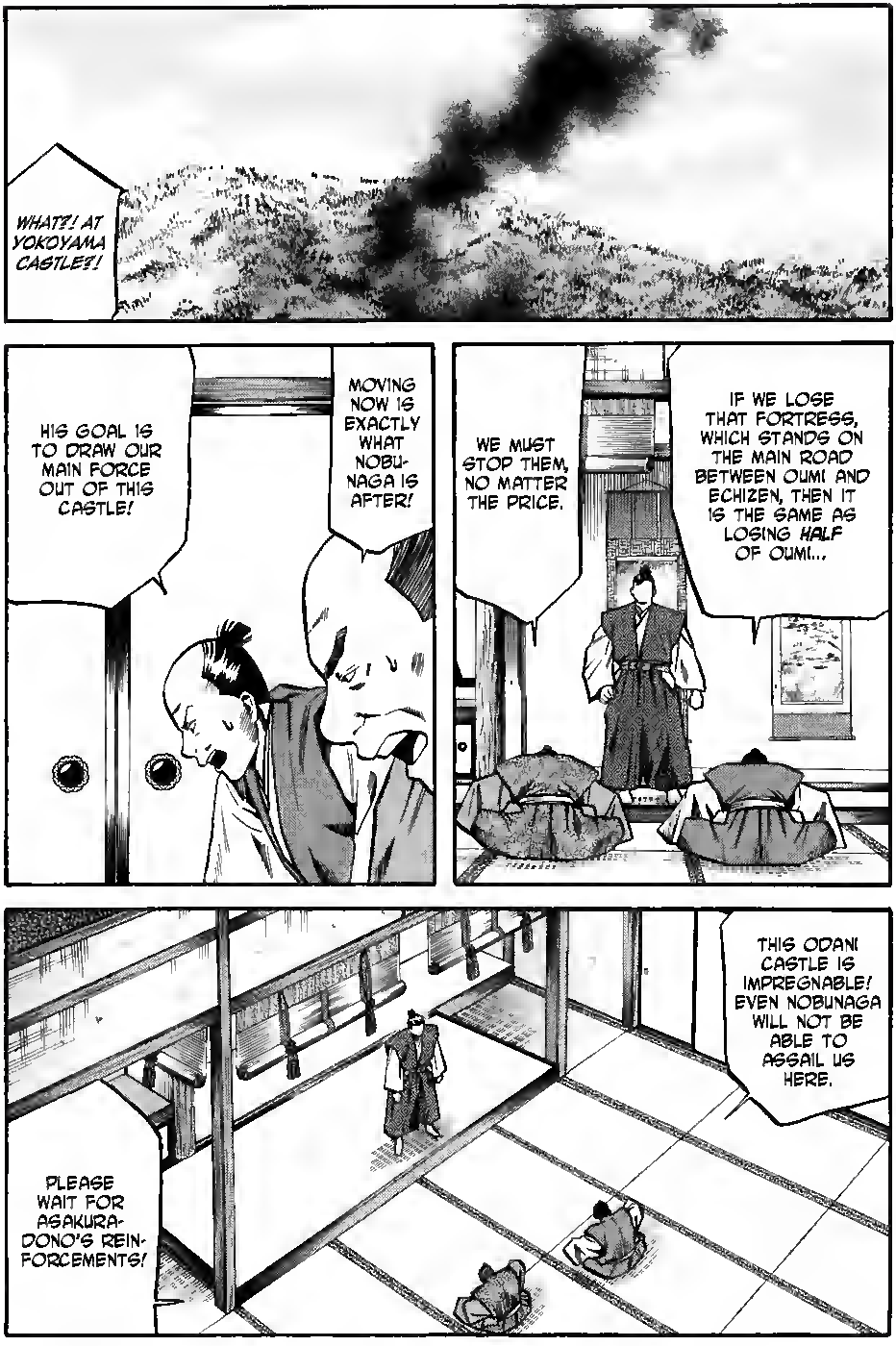
LOOKS LIKE I OWE HIM ONE NOW.
HAD I KILLED OICHI-SAMA WITH POISON, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.
SO KEN WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE LORD'S OBJECTIVE AFTER ALL...
MY LORD... AND KEN...?
...!!
IF HE DOES NOT RETURN, THEN THAT WAS ALL HE AMOUNTED TO.
YOSHI-NARI...

SFX Waaaaaaah
BURN THE VILLAGE AT HIBARI MOUNTAIN'S BASE
BRO-THER....!
MY LORD ....!

...ON THE 22ND.
JUNE 21ST
AFTER BURNING ALL THE VILLAGES SURROUNDING ODANI CASTLE, NOBUNAGA WITHDREW HIS TROOPS...
NINE KM SOUTH OF ODANI CASTLE, NOBUNAGA SET UP CAMP IN RYUGAHANA, AT THE BASE OF YOKOYAMA CASTLE'S MOUNTAIN.
THE 24TH OF THE SAME MONTH
Oh, IT IS MEAL TIME?

DID YOU SAVE SOME FOR ME?
YOU ARE LATE.

TOGETHER WITH NOBUNAGA'S FORCE OF 23,000, THEY HAD A COMBINED FORCE OF 28,000 MEN.
THEY MADE A PERIMETER AROUND AZAI'S YOKOYAMA FORTRESS.
THE SAME DAY...
TOKUGAWA IEYASU BROUGHT REINFORCEMENTS OF 5000 MEN.


WHAT?! AT YOKOYAMA CASTLE?!
HIS GOAL IS TO DRAW OUR MAIN FORCE OUT OF THIS CASTLE!
MOVING NOW IS EXACTLY WHAT NOBUNAGA IS AFTER!
WE MUST STOP THEM, NO MATTER THE PRICE.
IF WE LOSE THAT FORTRESS, WHICH STANDS ON THE MAIN ROAD BETWEEN OUMI AND ECHIZEN, THEN IT IS THE SAME AS LOSING HALF OF OUMI...
THIS ODANI CASTLE IS IMPREGNABLE! EVEN NOBUNAGA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ASSAIL US HERE.
PLEASE WAIT FOR ASAKURA-DONO'S REINFORCEMENTS!

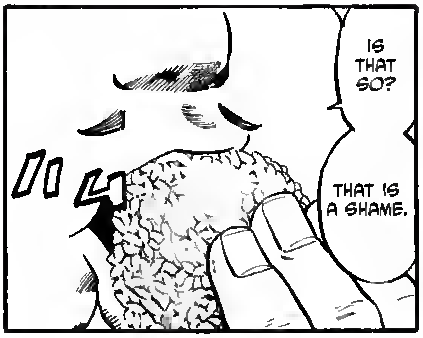
HE THINKS HE MAY GO ANY-WHERE ...
...AND DO WHATEVER HE DAMN WELL PLEASES IN OUMI... YOU WRETCHED BROTHER-IN-LAW...!
MY LORD...?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BETRAYED ME FIRST...

SIR...
PRO-
BABLY...
NOBU-
NAGA'S
SPY...
HE IS AN
EERILY QUIET
MAN, NEVER
CRYING, NEVER
STRUGGLING.
IT IS
HARD TO
EVEN TELL
WHETHER HE
IS ALIVE OR
DEAD...
...IS THAT
CHEF STILL
ALIVE?
IT
MATTERS
LITTLE
EITHER
WAY...

WE ARE GOING TO SEND NOBUNAGA...
...THAT SPY'S HEAD.

WHAT IS THIS-- ONLY RICE BALLS?
SFX. Thump Thump
ドン
ドン
HE IS PROBABLY IN ODANI CASTLE RIGHT NOW.
HIDEYOSHI-DONO, DID HE NOT BRING KEN TO THE FRONT-LINES THIS TIME?
ドン
IF NOT, THEN HE IS ALREADY ...
SFX. Choke
PLEASE, PLEASE BE ALRIGHT...!
BOSS...

SFX: Munch


IS THAT SO?
THAT IS A SHAME.

THANKS?
I HAD BEEN HOPING TO GIVE HIM MY THANKS.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME RECALL SUCH AN IMPORTANT MEMORY...
IT WAS REALLY DELICIOUS.

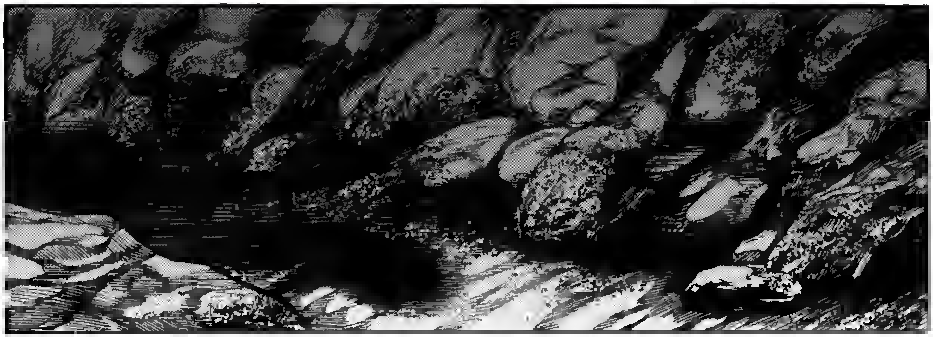
IT CAN MAKE THE HEART WAVER...
I WONDER HOW THAT MAN ACQUIRED SUCH A SKILL...

...BUT EVEN SEEMS TO SEEP INTO THE HEART...
IT IS MYSTERIOUS, IS IT NOT? KEN'S FOOD IS NOT JUST DELICIOUS...

EVEN WHILE WE WERE EXCHANGING LETTERS...
...YOU BRAZENLY DECIDED TO ATTACK ECHIZEN!
YOUR CLAN AND THE ASAKURA HAVE LONG HAD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP.
I WILL NOT MAKE ANY TROUBLE WITH THE ASAKURA NEEDLESSLY.
WITHOUT EVEN A WORD...!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO THREW ME AWAY!
ヒョォォ
ヒョォォ

SFX Plip

SFX Plip



Nobunaga no Chef 3 END

Food from the Warring States Period

Column

Text and recipe by Nishimura Mitsuru

On the 14th of June, 1800, a battle took place in Marengo, in Northern Italy's Piedmont region. Thanks to the frantic effort of the division under one of Napoleon's personal guard, Napoleon's army defeated the Austrian Grenadiers and won a great victory. Napoleon, who was famished after the battle, left meal preparations to the head chef, Dunant (a Swiss). Unfortunately, the supply carriages were nowhere to be found. With no other options, Dunant sent soldiers to fetch ingredients from nearby farms that had been burned down. What they found was one chicken, three eggs, four tomatoes, six crayfish, one bulb of garlic, olive oil, and bread. Using the bread, oil, and water, Dunant made a broth, he sliced the chicken into strips and stir fried them in oil, and then with the remainder of the oil, fried the eggs. Next, he made a sauce with the garlic, tomato, and broth, which he enhanced with some of the Cognac from Napoleon's flask, and he placed the crayfish on top where he steamed them. He served the chicken with the egg and crayfish lined around it on tin plates and covered it all in tomato sauce. Napoleon was apparently greatly pleased with the result, and after eating everything told Dunant, "If only every meal you made after a battle was this good..." This dish, born on that battlefield, has since taken the name 'Marengo Chicken' and has become a classic French dish. It is a timeless recipe for any chef.

Recipe

Sautéed Sea Bream (Tempura Style)

1. Slice sea bream fillet (without bones or skin) in 2 cm slices and sprinkle with pepper.
2. Place 2 tbsp of camellia nut oil in a frying pan at medium heat.
3. Make a tempura batter by mixing wheat flour in cold water, coat the sea bream slices in it, and then place them in the frying pan and turnover frequently until each side is sautéed.
4. Serve on a dish with a pinch of salt.

Some extra tips

1. In the case you cannot procure camellia nut oil, use sesame oil (white) or extra virgin olive oil as a substitute.
2. Instead of adding salt, you can also use salt mixed with matcha (powdered green tea) or ground yuzu (pomelo) rind.

T/N: Nishimura-sensei lists his historical sources for the manga at the bottom of the page, but as you're reading a scanlation and thus are unlikely to delve into Japanese Warring States Period history books, I took the liberty of omitting this